



DISCOVERY

The Journal of the

תגלית

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

VOLUME 21, No. 3

FALL 2011

JHSSA 21st Annual General Meeting Monday, October 24, 2011 – Calgary JCC Auditorium, 7:30 pm



For Freedom and Country: Honouring Jewish Veterans of World War II

During World War II, the proportion of Jews serving in Canada's military forces far exceeded their percentage of the total population. Over 16,000 Jewish men and women served in our Armed Forces. Jews also served in all the Allied forces. While it has been over 66 years since the end of the war, we are fortunate that a number of Jewish veterans from the various Allied countries are currently living in Southern Alberta.

Our local surviving veterans have served on land, sea and air on many fronts. Some were decorated, some were POWs and some were wounded. Most enlisted as mere youths and returned as experienced fighters. As Jews, their wartime experiences were unique. Their stories are compelling and we are fortunate to be able to have them share them with us.

We are extremely indebted to these former service men and women for their courage and sacrifice to defend freedom and country during the dark days of World War II. Our AGM program will honour Jewish veterans of all the Allied Forces now living in Southern Alberta with an illustrated program of stories, memories and music. Additional materials for our Archives are always gratefully accepted for future programs and publications.

The AGM program will also include historical perspectives from special guests, 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 and an opportunity to reminisce about days gone by.

As a follow-up to the AGM, we have arranged a visit to the Military Museums on Sunday, October 30th from 2 to 4 pm. This will consist of a one-hour tour of the Air Force Museum and the Founders Gallery followed by time to explore the museum. The regular Military Museums admission fee will apply (\$10). Space is limited and registration is required by October 25 through the JHSSA office (403-444-3171 or jhssa@shaw.ca). JHSSA members can also reserve a seat on a bus that will depart from the JCC at 1:15 pm.

Above: Toasting our Soldiers: Returning Jewish veterans of WW II were honoured at a B'nai Brith banquet on May 19, 1946. Mayor J.E. Watson, chairman Izzy Florence, Bob Berkoff, Col. T.E. Snow. Source: B'nai Brith Lodge 816. JHSSA #604

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Community Milestones: 1911 and 1961

by Agi Romer Segal

We continue our history series on communal events from 100 and from 50 years ago.

1911

The year 1911 saw evidence of the integration of the Jewish community into the political life of Calgary. Census figures from that year indicate a Jewish population of 641 and they appear very involved with local civic life. In January, officers were elected to the **Alberta Lodge No. 201, a Hebrew chapter of the Independent Order of the Western Star**, a fraternal organization (H.J. Cooper, president). On April 24, 1911 *The Morning Albertan* reported on the formation of the **United Jewish Association** (president, A. Bell) of Calgary with the aim "to unite all Jewish male members for their mutual welfare". This was immediately followed in May by the creation of the **Calgary Jewish Political Association** (H. King, president).

Almost immediately the communal organization was thrown into action when on May 7th over 300 Jews met to protest news reports in the *Calgary News Telegram* about alleged involvement of Hebrews – including women – in a ring of white slavers. A strongly worded resolution was passed at that meeting protesting the newspaper's claim that there was extensive Jewish involvement in the "nefarious work" and that the offenders were well known in the local Jewish community.

The formation of Jewish political organizations was not universally well received. There was reference to this at the May meeting where "an assertion that the political league has been formed for the purpose of securing control of the political plums" was repudiated. An editorial in the *Nanton News* was very blunt: "It has not yet been announced what great political principle the organization will advance, but it is probably to get something for the Jews. Observation leads one to believe that single-handed the sons of Jacob will get their share, and then some, of everything within reach..."

Tensions between the two Jewish political organizations were also reflected in articles and in letters in the local press. Some viewed the split between the groups along political party lines and others felt that the smaller Political Association had been formed by disgruntled individuals who had not been elected to office in the larger, earlier group. The big political question of the day was support for the Liberal policy of reciprocity. Hyman King, of the Association, went on to run, unsuccessfully, for alderman in the 1912 elections.

A more pressing local issue arose in November 1911 when the synod of the Diocese of Calgary resolved that there should be compulsory religious training in the Calgary Public schools involving the Lord's Prayer, public display of the Ten Commandments, some reading on Christian ethics and a daily reading of a scriptural passage.

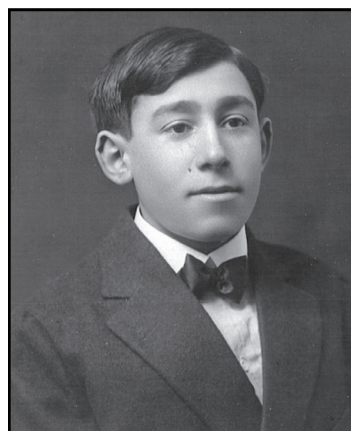
The Jewish community immediately expressed its opposition to this proposal in the local press and organized a mass meeting at the newly opened House of Jacob on November 19th and in the Labour Hall the following week. The initial article in *The Morning Albertan* claimed there were close to 1,000 Jewish students in the school system. A later article corrected this to nearly 500 students and pointed out that nearly 40% of the students in Central School were Jewish. A resolution was passed to petition the premier not accept

a bill on compulsory religious instruction and to "use all honest and equitable means...to defeat such a measure or statute if it should come up before the Legislature." They received support for their position from the Rev. J.C. Sycamore of the Baptist church.

These political issues caused elements of the Jewish community to come together beyond religious services and also provided a public venue for the development of local leadership. They eventually led to the formation in 1912 of a Hebrew Council to deal with Jewish religious and educational matters.

Of course, a major milestone for the community was the opening of the first synagogue. Construction began in June and the impressive **House of Jacob** building was ready for use for Rosh Hashanah in September 1911. (See the notice about the unveiling of the historic plaque for HOJ on p.8)

A number of Jewish Calgarians marked personal achievements in 1911. **Rudolph Engel** (Engle) supervised the construction and the installation of the City Hall tower clock. He homesteaded north of Rumsey but worked as a watchmaker for D.E. Black in the winters.



Nate Horodezky c. 1913. Source: Bertha Gold. JHSSA #854

Unfortunately, Mr. Engel died in an accident in 1912.

Young **Nate Horodezky** achieved recognition in December 1911 as the star salesman among *The Calgary News Telegram's* newsboys. The touching news article headlined "A 14 year-old Calgary newsboy has a record of which he may be proud" calls him a 'real live wire'. The article quotes Nate in his imperfect English and recounts how his earnings of \$210 went towards supporting his homesteading

parents. His prize for salesmanship was a pair of skates.

Charles Bell also started in business as a newsboy in Winnipeg to support his orphaned family, but in 1911 he opened the King George Hotel on Ninth Avenue with his partner J. Schiesel. This was his second hotel in the city and both Charles and his brother Alex became prominent in Calgary's business and Jewish communities.

1911 saw the arrival of brothers **Jacob B.** and **Abraham L. Bar-ron**. Both were later called to the Alberta bar and became influential in the legal, business and cultural life of the growing city.

Elsewhere in southern Alberta, **Lethbridge**, with a Jewish population of just over 50, celebrated the incorporation of its **Hebrew Congregation**. Its first Rabbi, Aaron Goodman, was hired and land was purchased for a local Jewish cemetery.

1961

Calgary's Jewish population saw a steady increase after the war years and the 1961 census showed a 37% growth from ten years earlier. There was corresponding development in the community's infrastructure. By 1960, new buildings had been opened for the Charles Waterman Talmud Torah, Beth Israel, Shaarey Tzedec

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Freedom for Soviet Jewry:

My Experience Helping Soviet Immigrants, 1978 - 1983

By Naomi Hashman

Emigrating from one country to another is courageous, admirable and complex. For Jews to leave the USSR, it meant partially giving up their culture, all their belongings, their particular way of life; leaving family and friends to begin a very different way of life. Soviet Jewish immigration to North America and Israel began in the early 1970s. It was my privilege to partake in Jewish history in the making. This article is my response to a challenge posed by a former client to write of my thoughts and feelings about my experience with this early wave of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

The 'story' of my relationship with Soviet Jewish immigrants began in December 1978 when I was hired as a social worker for Jewish Family Service Calgary. Soviet immigration corresponded with my arrival here from Winnipeg in November 1978.

When Soviet Jews first arrived in Calgary, their status was that of Landed Immigrant. Their goal was to become Canadian citizens in three years' time. Many came without English and all without offers of employment. Many of the newcomers attended English classes immediately. When they arrived, they were met by their respective social workers from Jewish Family Service. The executive director of the agency at that time was Sabine Joffe²¹, who thoroughly understood the concept of immigration. The families came under sponsorship either of the Canadian government or what was at the time Jewish Immigrant Aid Society (known as JIAS). If a family came JIAS-sponsored, they were given a stipend to live on until they obtained employment. Financial circumstances varied for those who were government sponsored.

As soon as the families descended the airplane, they were met by their social worker. In those days, the airport was a scene to behold; it was buzzing as it filled up with people of all ages – parents, grandparents, children and their baggage. It really was a beautiful sight to see! Families were coming from one culture to a totally different one and a great deal of adaptation was necessary. These newcomers landed in the "Goldena Medina" – (the golden country), a democratic country where they were free to express their *Yiddishkeit* – their Jewish culture.

On the very first day, the families were driven to the then Majestic Inn where they were met by owner Harry Shapiro²¹, who greeted them with tremendous warmth and hospitality. After the first day they were expected to go to the Harry Hayes Building (a government building) to have their passports checked. From there they went to Alberta Health Care to enable them to obtain medical treatment and then back to the Majestic Inn. It was a somewhat humorous situation because as I was learning Calgary at the same time as the immigrants; I am still teased about my driving. These immigrants had great determination and were going to be Jewish – each in their own way. Many of them had never been in a synagogue before because of the authoritarian regime in their homeland.

Accommodation was the next issue. At that time, there was a housing shortage and it was difficult to locate a place to live. Fortunately, my late husband Reuben Hashman²¹ knew someone at the Calgary Housing Authority and we were able to obtain

subsidized housing for everyone. The Russian speakers in Calgary maintained a grapevine with friends in the USSR and I can recall one family coming off the airplane asking for a specific apartment in a certain area.

Employment was the next hurdle. Although many of these immigrants were highly educated, initially they often had to take unskilled, and even second, jobs. A good number of them were engineers – women as well as men. All these new arrivals were highly motivated and very hard workers and most of them ultimately became very successful. As some families came with their elderly parents, given that Russian families are often so close – it was the elders' role to care for their grandchildren while their children went to work. Without a doubt, the hardest adjustment to a new culture was for the elderly. Eventually, many of them ended up living in the Jewish Community Apartments where they had their own accommodation, often among fellow immigrants.

Most of the youngsters attended the Calgary Hebrew School. These children were often not readily accepted socially by their peer group and experienced much difficulty with relationships. Canadian children had difficulty accepting classmates who were different. However, most of these children were very bright scholastically and eventually found rewarding careers and a social circle.

Continued on Page 7

Sabine Joffe, c. 1974. Sabine was the executive director of Jewish Family Service Calgary during the first wave of immigration from the Soviet Union. JHSSA #825



Soviet immigrants Ilya, Irena and Esmeralda Karshenbaum get to enjoy the West at Lake Louise, 1980. Source: Irena Karshenbaum.

Calgary's Early Bank for Microcredit – 80 Years of Helping Fellow Jews

by L. Deborah Sword

The concept of 'microcredit' was popularized in the 1970s. Prof. Muhammad Yunus, then an unknown economics professor in Bangladesh, started the Grameen Bank to give small loans to people who could not otherwise get credit. The idea was called a revolution. In 2006, Prof. Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Without taking anything away from Professor Yunus' tremendous accomplishment, our forbears had been doing microcredit for millennia. The term itself didn't exist in 1931, when some men of the extended Switzer family started the Polish Jewish Family Loan Association. The object of the Association was "solely to aid members who are temporarily embarrassed financially, by loaning small sums to members of the Society at no cost or interest payable by the borrowers...". While the Association has gone through changes in name and constituency, that object endures as its founders intended.

Changes in the past 80 years

Loans were originally granted on just a handshake and the repayment rate was believed to be 100%. Annie Brodsky's father, Myer Switzer, told her: "We never lost a loan." Annie, the Association's perpetual treasurer, recalls being told that there had been one default on a loan before she was involved. There have been, at most, three defaults out of hundreds of loans in the past 25 years. Now, everyone has to sign an application, provide two guarantors and enter into a repayment contract. Myer approved of the change to formal documentation, acknowledging to Annie that times had changed. This was only one of the changes that modern times wrought.

From 1931 to 1984, only men could be members and only men took out loans. That didn't stop the women from being involved – organiz-

ing teas and events raising funds so there would be enough money to give as loans to anyone who qualified. Early on, meetings were almost social events held at the Summit Hotel, when Sam Switzer, Jack Fishman, Moishe Mendleman, Myer Switzer, Abe Belzberg, Nate Horodezky and other men met for breakfast and discussed Association business among other topics. Nate's house was the designated address for the Association, and he was its Secretary because he was the only member whose English writing skills were adequate. Current co-presidents, Mort Levitt and Lil Faider, now conduct official meetings.

Mort, Lil and Annie Brodsky recall a time when the Association languished because people didn't seem to need money – the post-war boom. Abe Gold saw a need for the Association to be revitalized and Moishe Mendleman, the Association's long time president, was happy to give the title over. However, Abe made it a condition that he would not become president unless Annie Brodsky became treasurer (she is now in year 27 in that capacity). At a meeting at the Jewish Centre, held in February 1984, Abe was inducted as president and women were admitted as members.

Lil calls the meeting 'revolutionary': "Never in a million years had we thought we'd be members. It never occurred to us we'd be allowed to be dues paying members. At that time, women weren't taking out loans unless it was in their husband's name. We didn't find it necessary because the men were so involved." Annie agrees: "My father was so involved and, when I married, my husband and father-in-law were members. So, I didn't need to be." Annie, Bertha Gold and Lil were among the first women admitted to Association membership and soon became its heart.

One small change is to the entirely volunteer nature of the Asso-

ciation. For 76 years, no one was paid anything for the responsibility of administering the loans. According to the 1932 bylaws, only the Secretary Treasurer was to be entitled to remuneration for services to the Association. Annie says: "Never had any Secretary Treasurer asked for or received any payment until a few years ago when the Board insisted on recognizing my 25 years running the Association and voted me a nominal yearly honorarium. Bertha made me take it."

Other changes were to the name. The Polish Jewish Family Loan Association's bylaws were registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies on January 8, 1932. Membership was limited to "persons of the Polish-



Polish Jewish Family Loan Association Founders, 1932. Back row, left to right: Zeishe Zysblat, Mendel Belzberg, Mendel Switzer, Myer Switzer, Morris Mendelman, Jack Fishman. Middle: Morris Aizenman, Philip Switzer, Mendel Switzer, Avrum Switzer, Sam Boyko, Jack Bleviss. Front: Ralph Switzer, Meyer Switzer, Charlie Switzer, Nate Horodezky, Berel Aizenman, Abe Belzberg, Leo (Leibl) Moro and Percy Fishman. Source: Jack Switzer. JHSSA # 1051. Jack notes that 15 of these men were first cousins by blood or by marriage.

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3rd Annual Jay Joffe Program

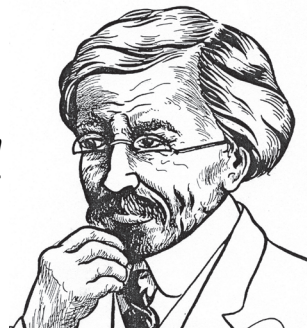
in partnership with Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival presents

Sholem Aleichem: Laughing in the Darkness

Sunday, November 20, 2011

Once again, the Jewish Historical Society will be honouring the memory of our founding President, Jay Joffe, by sponsoring an informative and entertaining feature film at the upcoming Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival in November. *Sholem Aleichem: Laughing in the Darkness* is Joseph's Dorman's in-depth exploration of the life of the beloved writer and his place in modern Jewish history. Look for exact screening details in the Film Festival brochure.

Line drawing of author Sholem Aleichem by Shimshon Heilik for the I.L. Peretz School curriculum he created in 1955.



Calgary's Microcredit Bank

Continued from Page 4

Jewish race". The Association was named to reflect the reason for its origin, as reported in *Discovery* (Spring 1997). Briefly, the story is told of the first loan to Jack Bleviss. The Allen Hebrew Free Loan Association (whose founders were American Jews and owners of several theatres) rejected his request for a loan and told him to go to the Polish Jews "who had lots of money". Very upset, Jack recounted this to Nate Horodezky. Nate, perplexed that there was a perceived difference based on Jews' country of origin, recruited Berel Aizenman, another relative, to contribute money to give out as loans to Polish Jews. They enlisted more men and the Association was formed.

On October 17, 1966, the eligibility criterion was formally changed to "persons of the Jewish race". David Brodsky, president from 1994 to 2000, facilitated the official change from 'Polish' to 'Calgary' in the name. Originally it helped only Polish Jewish immigrants and their descendants start their lives in a new country. Now, it helps Jews from all points of origin and stages of life. Any Jew is welcome to join and support the mission of the Association with their dues, or to take out loans.

Some things remain constant

The membership fee to join is still low and the microcredit concept of a small loan continues. Repayment is still minimal monthly amounts over two years, following which the borrower is eligible for another loan. Membership to the Polish Jewish Family Loan Association was \$2.00 per year in 1931, no matter how wealthy the member. By 1941, membership was \$3.00, and today it is \$20.00 per year. Extra donations were, of course, encouraged. Each 1931 member was entitled to apply for a loan of \$50.00, whereas in 2011, members are eligible for loans up to \$3,000.00.

One thing that Annie, Lil and Mort agree is too important to change is the need to keep their fathers' legacy going.

Lil says: "The important story is how many people have been helped over the years. The organization has survived and the children and grandchildren of the original members now feel it's important enough to keep it going."

Annie adds: "We want to continue the organization so that we are there if anyone can benefit from it." Annie's children and grand-

children now are members and she's instilled in them the importance of carrying on the work of her father and other relatives.

Mort notes: "The membership numbers seem to be dropping off in recent years. If people don't need the money, they don't become members, which means there is less money available to loan to others. This is a shame; the families of the original 21 members are committed to the Association's viability."

Annie concludes: "It's got to go on. It's very important for people to consider that even if they, thankfully, don't need a loan they can support others who do. They should join to help others. \$20.00 a year in dues isn't much any more, yet it could collect with others' dues to help those who need it."

L. Deborah Sword is the granddaughter of Etta & Myer Switzer. CJFLA is currently planning an 80th anniversary celebration. For further information or to become a member contact Annie Brodsky at 403-281-9476.

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Local History and Local Authors – New Titles in our Library

November is Jewish Book Month and this year the JCC is holding a Jewish Book & Arts Festival showcasing local authors (Nov. 28-Dec. 5). Here are some titles that have been added to our Local Authors collection in the past year. If you are a local author, please consider donating a copy of your work to our growing collection.

The House that Jacob Built, by Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel, 2009. This richly illustrated volume celebrates the hundredth anniversary of Calgary's oldest congregation.

Surviving the Survival, by Sidney Cyngiser, 2010. This memoir of a local Holocaust survivor deals with his childhood, war time experiences and also his subsequent involvement with Holocaust education in Alberta.

Wake-up Call; Tales from a Frontier Doctor, by Sterling Hayes, 2010. Dr. Hayes kindly donated his memoirs to our library. His account of his early years in Edmonton mentions many people familiar to long-time Calgarians.

The Jaundiced Eye; Reflections on the Art and Practice of Medicine, by Noel Hershfield, 2001. This is a collection of JHSSA Director Dr. Hershfield's articles from *The Doctors' Digest*.

Legal Odyssey, by Gondor Kane, 2001. This work of fiction was donated by the author for our Local Authors collection.

Explorers of the Pacific Northwest, by Betty Sherwood and Janet Snider, 2003. This textbook was co-authored by JHSSA president, Betty Sherwood.

Jack: the biography of Jack Singer, by Tyler Trafford, 2010. This illustrated biography of this prominent Calgarian provides much information about the Singer family and about early Jewish businesses.

My Client My Friend, by Jerry Snukal, 2008. This local author shares some of the wisdom he has gained in his many years as an accountant in the Calgary business community.

Roy & Me; This Is Not a Memoir, by Maurice Yacowar, 2010. Local author M. Yacowar recounts his experiences working as a student for controversial figure Roy Farran at North Hill News. He weaves Farran's past into his "non-memoir" and mentions the Cesarani book on Farran.

Other Jewish authors with a Calgary connection already represented in our collection include S. Belkin, A. Bondar, D. Century, T. Cowan, E. Ebner, B. Gold-Babins, D. Greber, E. Hanson, B. Hedva, S. Heilik, A. Horowitz, E. Levant, A. Manolson, F. Manolson, M. Nordegg, R. Norman, M. Paperny, N. Ravvin, H. Sanders, E. Segal, E. Shumiatcher, M. Shumiatcher, R. Tanenbaum and F. van Zuiden. We have files on a number of other authors, but do not own a copy of their work.



President's Message

by Betty Sherwood

In August I had the good fortune to attend the 31st International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies Conference in Washington, DC. I would like to share a few highlights of the many workshops and displays I found so rewarding and instructive.

Naturally, local resources and speakers are well utilized at all IAJGS conferences. Sara J. Bloomfield, CEO of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, gave the keynote address. In addition to its countless exhibits, films, interactive displays, etc., the USHMM includes the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center which provides free reference services for the public. Towns and communities can be researched as well as individuals or families. The International Tracing Service and the World Memory Project are other facets of the USHMM. See www.ushmm.org to learn more.

Between 1873 and 1934 more than two million passengers sailed from Antwerp to the Americas on the Red Star Line. Realizing the historical value of this part of Antwerp, authorities have classified the historic harbour sheds dating from 1894 as a protected monument. In 2012 the site will re-open as Red Star Line/People on the Move, a place of memory, experience and research. Do you have any Red Star items such as postcards, photos, luggage or diaries that you can contribute to the new museum collection? If so, send an email to redstarline@stad.antwerpen.org.

Joseph J. Goodman was born in Russia about 1863 and had settled on the Canadian Prairies by the early 20th century. Among his many occupations was that of journalist and in 1919 his Yiddish tales, poetry and essays were published as "Collected Writings". Discovered by his granddaughter at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts, it has now been translated into English and published in a bilingual edition, with additional notes and photos provided. Here is a taste of what he wrote about Calgary:

"A Calgary person's main goal in life is to become a partner of John D. Rockefeller.... Optimism is the spirit of Calgary. Maybe the strong optimism is to blame for about 30 Jewish families in Calgary out of 250 running second-hand stores or being pawnbrokers. There are two Ladies' Aid Societies, but meanwhile one synagogue. However there is already talk that the synagogue will shortly give birth to another.... Relief work lies in the hands of the radical youth. Quite important sums are collected for our unhappy, suffering brothers in the war-stricken lands. In general, I see now more life and more Jewish cultural life in the Calgary Jewish community. I hope it will become more unified in time...."

Attendance at an international genealogy conference provides many opportunities to search for long-lost relatives and Jewish communities, as well as to take in local places of interest. Of course, enthusiasm for delving into Jewish history is shared by all participants. Next year's IAJGS conference will be hosted in Paris by France, Belgium, Switzerland and Luxembourg from July 15th to 18th. Bilingual English/French lectures, films, exhibitions, etc., will be followed by post-conference visits to historic Jewish sites in France and elsewhere in Europe. To plan your attendance, please visit www.paris2012.eu.

Please contact our office if you have any programming ideas on genealogy for JHSSA.

Community Milestones *Continued from Page 2*

and the I.L. Peretz School. After 10 years of fundraising, the Chevra Kadisha finally secured enough funds in 1961 to build its **Jewish memorial chapel** on 17th Avenue SW. The 250-seat chapel, equipped with special facilities for the burial rituals of *taharah*, served the community until the opening of the new chapel and cemetery at Highway 22X and 37th Street SW in 2005.

The **Calgary Jewish Family Service Bureau** (later Jewish Family Service Calgary) began its full time operations in 1960 but was officially incorporated in 1961.

To help the fledgling organization realize its goals, the Calgary branch National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) initiated its annual **Angels' Ball** with the proceeds earmarked for the hiring of a professional social worker (see the article in *Discovery*, Summer 2011). The preparations for the Ball were covered intensively in the local press, giving the NCJW a high profile in the community. Calgarian **Moza Zemens** served as national president of NCJW that year. The Jewish National Fund honoured **Alex and Rose Cohen** at the 1961 Negev Dinner. Saul Hayes of Canadian Jewish Congress was the guest speaker.

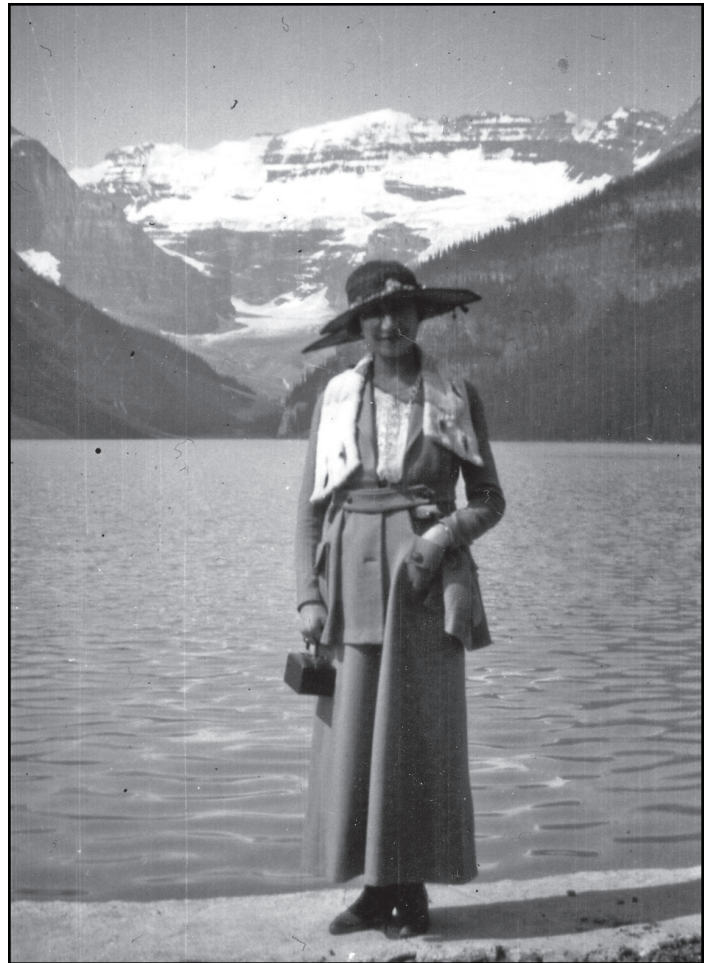


The Chevra Kadisha funeral chapel, 2002. The building on 17th Avenue was used from 1961 to 2005. Photographer: Sheldon Smithens. JHSSA #1016

Freedom for Soviet Jewry *Continued from Page 3*

In conclusion, though a move is difficult for anyone, Soviet Jewish immigrants approached their potentially traumatic adjustment with enthusiasm and vigor. Initially the general community did not readily accept the newcomers. Research has indicated that it takes newcomers at least five years to adjust to a new situation. By now these immigrants have been more integrated into the larger community, and many do important work within Jewish community organizations. The Jews of the former Soviet Union have increased and enriched our community. I know that I am better off for knowing them and I think that is also true for the Jewish community.

Photos to Identify



Local Beauty. Unidentified beauty from the Spindel photo collection. JHSSA #1341.43

When we developed a number of negatives from the JHSSA's Spindel collection this summer, we were delighted to find a number of early interesting images. Most of the people remain unknown and we hope our readers can help us to identify them.



Local Wildlife. Please notify us if you know who this is – one guess is Harry Woolfe. Source: Spindel collection. JHSSA #1341.42

JHSSA News

Recent JHSSA Summer activities

In July, Harry Sanders led over 25 people on a tour of the Erlton cemetery as part of Historic Calgary Week.

In August, 18 attendees enjoyed a very engaging Oral History Workshop led by Dr. Kori Street.

Naomi Kerr has photographed recent headstones in our cemeteries to enable us to keep our cemetery files up to date. These files are used frequently to answer the research questions we get from near and far.

We had two students working on JHSSA projects this summer. Sarah Jane Kerr-Lapsley worked on indexing our Local Jewish

Press collection as part of a project funded by our Community Spirit Grant. Rachel Kreyner has conducted a number of oral history interviews with immigrants from the former Soviet Union. She is also translating and transcribing them. We hope this material will help researchers gain a clear picture of the immigrant experience in our community's history.

Former JHSSA President Sheldon Smithens has been busy crisscrossing Canada for his TV series *Canadian Pickers*. Be sure to catch Sheldon in action on Channel 45.

New Office Staff at JHSSA

We bid fond farewell and much success to Roberta Kerr who has embarked on new adventures in B.C. Roberta spent many years at JHSSA working on our exhibits and displays. We extend a warm welcome to Katie Baker who has joined us as our part-time office manager.

Community Spirit Grant renewed

JHSSA has again qualified for the Alberta Community Spirit which is based on local donations to the Society. This provincial initiative means that your donation is worth twice as much. This coming year will be the final year in which we will qualify to request a renewal, so please consider increasing your donation beyond membership. Past grants have been used to purchase new display panels and digital equipment. We have embarked on a project to create educational kits for our schools.

Public Unveiling Ceremony for Historic Plaque Marking the Centennial of the House of Jacob Synagogue

**Bow Valley College, 332 Sixth Avenue SE
Tuesday, November 1, 2011, 3:00 pm**

JHSSA invites the entire community to celebrate the unveiling of a plaque marking the original site of Calgary's first synagogue. The House of Jacob was opened for the High Holidays in 1911. To mark this important centennial, an official unveiling ceremony for the plaque will take place at Bow Valley College, which now occupies the site. This project was funded by the special donations members sent in for the JHSSA's 20th anniversary. We hope to have a bus leaving from the JCC. For further details contact our office at 403- 444-3171 or jhssa@shaw.ca



Congregation House of Jacob synagogue, c. 1967. This photo was taken shortly before the building was demolished. Photographer: C. L. Arbour. JHSSA #103

Corrections to *Discovery*, Spring 2011

Thank you to those who have sent in corrections.

Phillip Wolf noted that his grandfather Nate Sanofsky passed away in 1979 at the age of 89, not 79 as reported.

Darlene Switzer-Foster has written to correct the mistake in the name of Al Sanofsky's wife – her name was Jessie Switzer.

DISCOVERY

Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

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