



DISCOVERY

The Journal of the

תגלית

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

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FALL 2016

JHSSA 26th Annual General Meeting

Monday, October 31, 2016

Calgary JCC Auditorium – 7:30 pm

featuring

***Music, Music, Music: A Journey Back
through the Jewish Music Scene in Calgary***

With a nod to Calgary's Year of Music, this year's presentation following our AGM business meeting will celebrate past musical personalities and events that have so enriched our community. Music has always been integral to community events and various choirs, bands, and soloists have graced our stages. A number of noted Jewish musicians have played pivotal roles in the development of the musical landscape in Calgary. In addition, Jewish music educators have contributed to the thriving local music community. Our brief look back will examine each of these areas. The program will end with an "encore" performance of some of the songs that were featured in community gatherings decades ago.

As always, the AGM will also include our financial report, board elections, and the presentation of certificates in recognition of those in our community who have celebrated their 80th birthday in the past year. If you would like to join our board or can supply names of 80 year-old celebrants, please contact our office.



I.L. Peretz School Mandolin and Guitar Band. 1929. Back row, left to right: A. Novikov, Ida Roginsky, Morris Estrin, Mrs. Smith, Max Eisenstadt; Hymie Sheinin, David Rosenthal. Front row: Mary Bell, Emily Shulman, Anne Lachter, Anne Levine, Martha Sheinin, Evelyn Ostrovsky. Photographer: R.A. Rogers. JHSSA #85

President's Message

By Sandra Lipton



This summer has been a very busy time for our organization. In June, we co-sponsored the Community Day sessions on southern Alberta history held in conjunction with the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies 2016 conference. In August, JHSSA sponsored Historic Calgary Week's wrap-up concert featuring Paul Finkleman. Both programs were highly successful, and we appreciate your support of these events.

The dramatic growth in the Jewish population of southern Alberta in the first decades of the 20th century led to the birth of many community institutions and now, 100 years later, we are marking their centennials. A few years ago we honoured the Chevra Kadisha centenary; just this summer the community commemorated 100 years since the opening of the Little Synagogue (Montefiore Institute); and shortly B'nai B'rith Lodge 816 will be celebrating its centennial. Similarly, many pioneer families continue to celebrate their history in southern Alberta. The Hanson and the Switzer families have recently held reunions. Florence Middleman's family and friends gathered in August to celebrate Florence's 110th birthday.

Thank you to our over 200 members and donors for your ongoing financial support and volunteer time. If you are not yet a member, please consider helping to sustain our organization through membership fees and/or donations. I also want to thank our board members for all their support and to acknowledge our office staff for their phenomenal work. Our journal *Discovery*, archival

Continued on Page 8

In this Issue:

JHSSA 26 th Annual General Meeting.....	1
President's Message.....	1
Community Milestones 1916 and 1966.....	2
How Goodly Are Thy Tents: The Western Citizenship Seminars (1954–1964)	4
Welcome Home: Revisiting Camp BB at 60	5
8 th Annual Jay Joffe Memorial Program	7
Winter Program: <i>Journey of Discovery</i>	7
JHSSA News	8

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Community Milestones 1916 and 1966

By Agi Romer Segal

This article is largely based on material gleaned from our Newspaper Collection.

The struggles on the battlefields of World War I were the top concern of Calgarians in 1916. The same was true within the local Jewish community, which also worried about fellow Jews suffering the ravages of war in Europe. The year opened with a special mass meeting held on Sunday, January 2nd at the House of Jacob featuring Winnipeg Chief Rabbi Kahanovich. *The Morning Albertan* reported the event on the following day. The reading of Governor General Duke of Connaught's proclamation was followed by "a stirring and patriotic speech" by the Rabbi. He stated that "the British flag is the noblest and greatest of all flags. It is the symbol of true love and liberty. Under its protection ... it has given freedom to our brothers and sisters. Great Britain will help us to get Palestine, and thus our ancient dream will become a reality." Mr. Sosinsky sang the prayer for the King and for those who had shed their blood and sacrificed their lives. A collection at the meeting raised \$54.45 for war sufferers. A banquet was held in the Rabbi's honour the following day.

Fundraising efforts continued throughout the year. The Girls Auxiliary of the Relief Fund for War Sufferers, headed by Stella Sereth, seems to have been the most active in this endeavour. The local

press covered a May Birthday Party, a September concert and a December Bazaar and Dance. The May event featured a candy wheel, flower booth, "post office" and "telegram office". More than \$850 was raised during the year.

Local lawyer Ben Ginsberg coordinated the effort to host Jewish servicemen located in the Calgary area for the Jewish holidays.

Unfortunately, news of an ultimate sacrifice soon reached the community. Samuel Hackman, whose family homesteaded in Rumsey, died on September 24, 1916 of wounds sustained in France in the Battle of the Somme. Sam had left his job at a soap factory and enlisted in the 82nd Battalion and had crossed to Europe in May. News of his death, with a photo, was published in the *Calgary Daily Herald* on October 10th. JHSSA has copies of postcards he sent to his family from France in July and August. (See *Discovery*, Winter 2012, p. 4-6 for more details.)

Another recruit with an interesting story was Harry Woolfe. Harry did eventually serve overseas in WWI, but in 1916, at the young age of 17, he travelled to Regina to sign up with the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. In his oral history interview, Harry stated that he had lied about his age when he became the Mounties' youngest recruit. He claimed that his ambition to sign up stemmed from his experiences with the RNWMP in his father's gunsmith shop on Ninth Avenue E.

There are many indications that Calgary's Jewish community, with a population of less than one thousand, continued to thrive during the war years. A number of new (some of them short-lived) organizations were formed and interesting personalities were featured at public events. The Calgary Jewish Benevolent Society was established in January to help the needy and the sick. Members held a Silver Tea at the King George Hotel in March to raise funds for the Returned Soldiers Association and a Whist Drive was held in November to support the Relief Fund.

Dr. Greenstein of the Jewish Consumptive Relief Association in California visited in February. His talk raised \$500 and inspired the formation of a local branch.

There were also initiatives to help local Jews. The Allen Free Loan Association was established in November (president, J. Goldberg). With an initial donation of \$200 from theatre owner Barney Allen, small sums were to be made available without interest, to be repaid weekly within three months.

In an effort to foster fellowship among the Jewish boys in Calgary, a Maccabean Club was formed under the leadership of Louis Franklin and P. Malkin. By December it boasted 30 members.

The existence of four different venues for High Holiday services also attests to the changes in the growing community.

A number of high profile visitors caught the attention of the local press. On January 17, 1916, *The Calgary Daily Herald* announced the Yiddish lecture by Dr. Chaim Zhitlovsky titled "The spiritual struggle of the Jewish nation for its existence". Zhitlovsky became a frequent visitor to Calgary after the establishment of the I. L. Peretz School. Another noted visitor came from Zionist circles. Zionist educator Ben Zion Mossinsohn had been expelled from Palestine by the Turks and went on a speaking tour to raise funds for the Palestine Emergency Fund. His talk in early December filled the Allen

Continued on Page 3



Private Samuel Hackman's marker in Calgary's Field of Crosses Memorial, 2015

The Field of Crosses Memorial Project is an annual display mounted from November 1st to November 11th along Memorial Drive to memorialize over 3,000 Southern Alberta soldiers who have been killed in action. The mission of the project is "to create awareness that our freedom did not come without a price." For further information see www.fieldofcrosses.com

Community Milestones

Continued from Page 2

Theatre to capacity and raised \$500, with donations from every local Jewish organization.

A most newsworthy talk was given by Rev. William Irvine. An invitation was extended to both Jews and Gentiles to his talk at the Empress Theatre in September about "What the Christians Owe to the Jews". *The Calgary Daily Herald* later published the bulk of the speech. Irvine denounced wholesale expulsions of the Jews where people had been "huddled together like cattle in box cars." He called upon Britain to help secure freedom for Russian Jews.

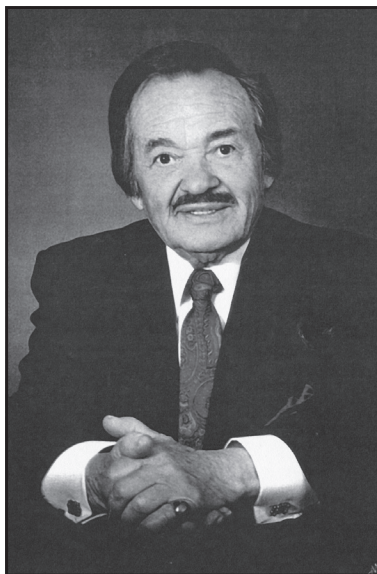
Issues related to the ongoing military conflict affected the local community. There were numerous court cases dealing with the re-sale of military gear or garb, some involving Jewish second-hand dealers.

Of the many lesser criminal cases, the most interesting seems that of the gum slot machine operated by Abraham Groberman in his pool hall. He was charged with "keeping a common gaming house." The issue was partly that the machine gave out tokens that could be redeemed for cash. The lawyer for the defense pointed out that the city charged a \$25 license duty per machine, "so if there was any crime the city was a partner to it". Groberman was found guilty and fined five dollars, because it was found that at times there was actually no gum stocked in the machine; thereby it served only as a gambling device.

Some of the more sensational news items relating to Jews included the suicide of Simon Kuner, a local lecturer who had had business setbacks, and the murder trial of Ben Sterling of the Montefiore Colony. The charges against Sterling arose after the man with whom he had had an altercation over some financial issues died two weeks later, apparently from his injuries. In October Sterling was acquitted of the charges. His defense team included R. B. Bennett and Ben Ginsberg. The event that had greater impact on the colony was the opening of its Montefiore Institute in August. Unfortunately, the farmers suffered severe frosts later that season. Nevertheless, it was reported that the colonists still managed to contribute \$200 on behalf of the war sufferers.

1966

By 1966, the Jewish community had established a firm presence in the south-west of the city. No new communal buildings were planned, but the Calgary Hebrew School undertook a campaign to add a Centennial wing to house additional classrooms for the increasing enrollment. In May, Max Katzin was honoured at the sod-turning ceremony for his role in the campaign. Other community honourees that year included Betty and Ted Riback at the JNF Negev dinner in January which 350 people attended.



Ralph Kalef. Photographer: Mathieson. Source: Sandy Kalef. JHSSA #1322



JNF Negev Dinner 1966: Left to right: Jack Crystal,?, honourees Betty and Ted Riback. Photographer: Mathieson. Source: Ted Riback. JHSSA #625.35

In November, Ralph Kalef was the recipient of the Beth Israel Synagogue's first Testimonial Award at their dinner and dance featuring Poncie Ponce of TV's *Hawaiian Eye* fame. In other community news, Sabine Joffe was named executive director of the Calgary Jewish Family Bureau and Dr. Carl Safran was appointed Superintendent of Special Services for the Calgary Public School Board.

The year 1966 marked the 18th anniversary of Israel's independence, so "Chai" became the theme for the Calgary Jewish Community Council's UJA campaign. Women donors were encouraged to "Give Chai" towards the campaign goal of \$145,000. The Yom Ha'Atzmaut Cabaret in April in the Shaarey Tzedec was attended by 400 people. Fifth grade Peretz School student Theresa Krygier was awarded the top prize for the "What Israel means to me" essay contest. Community Council's cultural series focussed on contemporary Jewish life and the culminating event in October featured Max Dimont, well known author of *Jews, God and History*.

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How Goodly Are Thy Tents: The Western Citizenship Seminars (1954–1964)

By *Betty Sherwood*

It was 55 years ago this summer that five young members of the Southern Alberta Jewish community participated in the Western Citizenship Seminar held at the Banff School of Fine Arts, sponsored by the Western Division of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews and the Canadian Citizenship Branch. I was one of those fortunate five. Having moved many times, the only souvenir I kept of that amazing week was a group photo and a few increasingly hazy memories. However, recently I began to wonder whether that was a one-time event and if there were several, who participated in other years. Next, I questioned whether any of those participants had outstanding reminiscences and if the program had influenced their adult selves.

The Canadian Council of Christians and Jews was founded in 1947 with the mandate "to promote justice, amity, and understanding among Protestants, Catholics and Jews and to analyze, moderate and finally eliminate inter-group prejudices." Of course the founding of this new organization was prompted by growing awareness of the atrocities of the Holocaust. After 1950, chapters were established in the major cities, with the Calgary office serving as the Western Regional Office. Its first seminar, called "Leadership in the Canadian Community", was held in Banff in 1954. David Dworkin chaired the Calgary division of the Young Adult Commission which was tasked with planning the structure of the conference. The Commission also

suggested the formation of a steering committee which would help plan future conferences. David found this experience so memorable that he saved his Conference Report and it has been added to the JHSSA Archives. The steering committee became a feature of subsequent seminars, and my research revealed that Maurice Yacowar served as a member of this committee for several summers and therefore was privileged to attend a number of times.

Irving Rootman, who participated several times and became a prominent sociologist, says meeting Professor Robert James was his first exposure to sociology and led to his lifelong involvement in this field. Maurice particularly remembers one of the Doukhobor leaders, Norman Rebin, as well as his Doukhobor roommate with whom he renewed acquaintance decades later. To quote Maurice, "Obviously meeting and hearing about all the different faiths was a life changer." This sentiment was echoed by all the previous participants who were kind enough to reply to my emails.

My friend Donna Riback was amazed that I only learned of her participation in the 1956 conference, by then renamed the Citizenship Seminar, from my research in the CCCJ files at the Glenbow Archives. She says the concept of throwing together young people from varied racial and religious groups was, and still is, a wonderful idea, and she wishes she had been less shy and more confident then. Everyone

Continued on Page 5



CCCJ Western Citizenship Seminar, 1961: Front row sitting on ground: 2nd from left: Maurice Yacowar. Seated on bench: 5th from left, Betty Sherwood, Irving Rootman; 2nd from the end on the far right: Joni Finestone, Lynne Benjamin. Photographer: Cascade Cameras Ltd. Source: Betty Sherwood. JHSSA #2933

How Goodly Are Thy Tents

Continued from Page 4

had round-the-clock opportunities to get to know each other. Dormitory rooms were assigned so that everyone roomed with a person of a different background, and in all the discussion groups we were mixed with people who initially seemed so different from us.

Lynne Benjamin, Joni Finestone, and I signed up in 1961, along with Irving and Maurice. That year, 46 young people took part including, to my surprise, a Protestant girl from my class at school. As young Jewish women in our late teens, we had had limited opportunities to meet First Nations, Chinese, Japanese, Doukhobor, and Mormon Canadians. The seminar allowed our first meaningful interactions. We all have memories of some of the outstanding leaders we met that week including aboriginal lawyers Marion Meadmore and William Wuttunee, as well as Robert James and Norman Rebin. We were introduced to Ellen Fairclough who was Minister of Citizenship. That in itself was an eye opener. In 1961 at least, the seminar was so noteworthy that the proceedings were reported each day in *The Albertan*. Its reporter noted that “members of the faculty include sociologists, psychologists, adult education specialists, social workers, journalists and student leaders.”

The five-day seminar consisted of lectures, panel discussions and group workshops which dealt with topics such as leadership, prejudice and public speaking skills. Members of the various groups presented programs and written papers that explained the salient features of their respective backgrounds. Afternoon recreation and evening entertainment were planned for each day by the Steering Committee.

Like all the aforementioned participants, Andria Spindel became

a member of the teaching and helping professions. Andria attended the national seminar in 1966 and went on to be recruited to the first board of the Alberta Human Rights Association. She recalls hearing about the “hyphenated Canadian” and the concept of the “marginal man” who straddled several identities. She says the impact of hearing these concepts affected her forever. Also, Andria was sent as a Jewish delegate to a CCCJ conference in Quebec where the goal was to bring together English and French Canadians.

The Western Citizenship Seminars continued to be held until at least 1964 when they were phased out in favour of other endeavours. Did we think we were part of something unique and life-changing? I found my evaluation in the 1961 seminar report in the Glenbow Archives. My experience of a lifetime meant a great deal to me then and still does today:

“As a Canadian and a Jew, I am interested not only in the problems and place of the Jews, but also of the other minority peoples of Canada. I thought that the best way to learn about others would be to live and learn with them, and I found this to be true. However, as much as I might benefit from their presence, I felt that they could also gain from mine. I hoped that I would achieve greater understanding and knowledge of them and that they would come to know more about Jews and Judaism. I came, too, because several of my friends praised their experiences in citizenship, democracy, leadership and co-operation. Perhaps, above all, I wanted to take the new ideas which I learned back to my family and friends. I am happy to say that all my hopes have been realized and to a greater extent than I had earlier imagined possible.”

Welcome Home: Revisiting Camp BB at 60

By Maxine Fischbein

“It’s good to be back home ... This camp is truly special and one of a kind ... a magical place.”

Those words by former Camp BB-Riback Director Max Lipsman summed up the emotions of some 250 people who attended the Camp’s 60th anniversary reunion held June 24–26.

Since its first session in the summer of 1956, the camp—originally known as Camp B’nai Brith—has brought together youth from Alberta, Saskatchewan and beyond on the shores of Pine Lake near Red Deer, Alberta.

Evelyn Sheftel-Shapiro was a senior counsellor when the camp first opened on July 8, 1956.

“We were so delighted with everything,” recalls Sheftel-Shapiro whose 32-year career as an early childhood educator was spawned by her camp experience. Notably, another future Jewish educator, Marilyn Libin (nee Hardin)—who later served as a teacher and administrator at the I. L. Peretz School and The Calgary Jewish Academy—was one of Sheftel-Shapiro’s first campers.

Sheftel-Shapiro had previously attended Young Judaea Camp at Lake Chestermere. Despite the fact that Camp BB was still under construction when she arrived there in 1956, the comforts of the camp by far exceeded the rustic conditions at the old Sea Cadet camp that the community had previously rented in Chestermere.

“It was so exciting that we actually had showers,” said Sheftel-

Continued on Page 6



Camp BB first session campers, 1956. Back row, left to right: Laurie Katzin, Gail Balizak, Esther Gofsky; Middle row, Tish Dvorkin, Ruth Givritz, Marilyn Hardin, Karen Gelfand, Elaine Landa, Serena Rollingher. Miriam Milner is missing from this bunk photo. Source: Evelyn Sheftel-Shapiro. JHSSA #2526.

Welcome Home

Continued from Page 5

Shapiro of Camp BB. "At Chestermere we bathed in the lake and used outhouses."

The relative comfort and safety at Camp B'nai Brith were thanks to the camp's founder, Ted Riback, who championed the establishment of a Jewish camp on the lake then known as Ghost Pine, even living on site during construction. There he worked closely with Calgary-based architect Jack Abugov who drew the plans and assisted in overseeing construction.

What really "lit a fire" under Ted Riback was a disaster-in-the-making he witnessed while visiting his daughter Donna when she was a counsellor at the YJ Camp at Lake Chestermere. In a 2014 interview, Donna Riback recalled showing her dad the camp. When they couldn't open the badly-warped door of one cabin, they used a little more force and burst in, startling a bunch of girls who were hiding there, smoking.

Horrified by that recipe for potential tragedy, Riback decided that the Jewish community needed to build their own, safer facilities. He traveled to every city and town with a B'nai Brith lodge to raise funds for the purchase of land. The camp enjoyed significant support from B'nai Brith and, later, from other key organizations in the Jewish community including the annual UJA Campaign.

The camp opened in the summer of 1956 under the leadership of inaugural Camp Director Aron Eichler whose wife, Ida, worked tirelessly with him.

Evelyn Sheftel-Shapiro remembers that workers were still completing Camp BB during that first summer session in 1956, assisted by camp staff.

"It was a lot of heavy work. The main dining room still needed work and we helped to build it, dragging cement bags around."

But it wasn't all work and no play. Sheftel-Shapiro fondly remembers the strong Zionist emphasis that Eichler and his staff brought to the camp. Maccabiah—a competition featuring sports and the arts—was introduced by Eichler at a time when the Jewish community was still celebrating the establishment of the modern State of Israel in 1948. Teams vying for bragging rights were respectively known as Jewish, Arab and British. The flavour of early Israeli life was transmitted to campers by staff members like Yossi Goelman of Edmonton who had lived in the fledgling state for a year and, among other things, taught staff and campers a song about the Kotel HaMa'aravi – the Western Wall.

Although Sheftel-Shapiro does not remember the "blue and white sweaters" forever immortalized in the camp song, she does recall that campers wore blue and white on Shabbat, beginning

their Sabbath rituals with "very spiritual" outdoor services.

In its June 14, 1956 issue, the *Western Jewish News* reported that the camp would "... accommodate 80 campers; however by next season this number will be doubled." Rates were \$40.00 per child per week, totalling \$120.00 for a three-week session.

Safety—a strong motivating factor for Ted Riback (for whom the camp was renamed in 1998)—has also been a priority for the nurses, medics, and doctors that have tended successive waves of campers. Between approximately 1978 and 1985, Dr. Harvey Rabin and his wife Rayna—friends of Edmonton-based camp directors Bill and Rivvy Meloff—traveled to the camp for second session.

Agreeing with the Meloffs that it would be beneficial to engage community doctors as volunteers, Rabin recalls recruiting the first doctor. "I got so jealous that I went the following year," said Rabin.

"It was a unique time. The staff were outstanding people," added Rabin, whose family enjoyed being part of the camp family and establishing long-standing relationships with key staff including Medina Shatz (whose father, Harry, served as the first Executive Director of the Calgary Jewish Community Council) and Jeff Eichler (son of Aron and Ida who, together, directed the camp during a second stint from 1968 to 1970).

As camp physician, Rabin recalls supervising camper medications, helping kids control allergies and treating the "usual" camp complaints: viral infections, bumps, bruises, and the occasional fracture.

In a 2014 interview Rivvy Meloff recalled with affection the service of the Rabins at Camp BB. "I slept better when they were there," said Meloff.

Rayna Rabin sewed costumes for camp musicals and helped make hundreds of blintzes as special evening treats for camp staff.

The Rabins' daughter, former camper Erica Dance—a physician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton—continues the family tradition as camp physician. Her son Joseph, now also a camper, is the third generation to enjoy summers at Camp BB-Riback.

Long serving Camp Director Max Lipsman (1999–2010) shared the passion of Ted Riback and Harvey Rabin for camper safety. "When you left your kid with me, he was my kid. I did anything I had to to keep him safe," said Lipsman.

"A highlight for me was working with camp doctors like Eric Babins, Steve Wainer, and Michele Moss," recalled Lipsman.

Moss, who served as camp doctor for a week or two each summer from 1997 through 2010, described her participation as "a real privilege. I absolutely loved going to camp. The bond I shared with many of the children continues to this day."

Continued on Page 7



Camp B'nai Brith, 1959. Source: Max Eisenstadt. JHSSA #228

8th Annual Jay Joffe Memorial Program

In Partnership with the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival

For screening time, please consult the Film Festival brochure.

Aida's Secrets: A Feature Documentary by Alon and Shaul Schwartz

Since 2009, JHSSA has honoured the memory of its founding president, Jay Joffe, by bringing films that present Jewish history in a compelling way to a wide audience. This year's film will highlight genealogy and the significance of family history. The turmoil of the aftermath of the Holocaust is the backdrop for this 2016 documentary. With the help of genealogical tools now available to everyone, Izak, who was put up for adoption after his birth in the Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, is able to track down and meet his brother in Canada. Their meeting leads to the revelation of further secrets and family connections. This documentary tells a compelling story and shows how knowledge of our past can impact the present.



JHSSA Winter Program

Sunday, February 5, 2017, Calgary JCC at 2:00 pm

featuring *Journey of Discovery*

presented by Izak Paul

In honour of Canada 150, throughout 2017 JHSSA will be taking a special look at our community's stories. In his illustrated presentation, Izak Paul will recount how a vacation trip to Prague and Vienna developed into an emotional journey, a "journey of discovery" about the fate of his paternal grandparents and great-grandparents who were murdered in the Holocaust. He has documented each stage of his research. Izak Paul is a recently retired professor of biology at Mount Royal University; he is one of the founders of MRU's annual Holocaust Education Symposium.

This program will be relevant to anyone interested in history, genealogy, and intriguing stories.



Paul family, late 1920s, Vienna, Austria

Welcome Home

Continued from Page 6

"Like everyone who worked on staff, they made a difference in a kid's life," said Max Lipsman.

Perhaps the greatest threat to camper safety occurred during Lipsman's first summer when a tornado touched down on July 14, 2000, narrowly missing the camp and then wreaking havoc at the Green Acres Campground where 13 people were killed and more than 140 injured. While it was an immense relief to Lipsman that the twister veered at the last moment, sparing the 300 campers and staff hunkered down in the *Hadar* (the camp's main dining hall), his concern immediately turned to those who felt the wrath of the deadly storm. The camp opened its gates to those needing medical attention, remaining on standby throughout the crisis and making sandwiches for members of the Canadian Armed Forces who were among the first responders.

In the wake of the tragedy, the Abugov Centre (named for camp pioneer and architect Jack Abugov) was built. The tornado-proof building, featuring arts and crafts rooms, dance studio, staff lounge, and multi-purpose space, was dedicated when the community, supported by additional funding from the Government of Alberta, rallied to ensure the safety of campers.

It was another in a long list of camp facilities dreamed, envi-

sioned, and generously supported by philanthropists and community members through the years. Evelyn Sheftel-Shapiro's uncle, community patriarch Leo Sheftel, was among Calgary leaders who went door to door to solicit donations so the camp could open in 1956. Could he then have possibly imagined that his great-grandsons Joseph and Leo Gurevitch would enjoy another summer at the camp this past 60th anniversary summer?

They splashed about in the swimming pool gifted to the camp in 1968 by notable Calgary philanthropists Harry and Martha Cohen and dedicated by then-Lieutenant Governor of Alberta the Honourable J.W. Grant MacEwan. They ate meals and belted out favourite camp songs in the historic *Hadar*. They walked in the footsteps of past campers all of whom can attest to the magic experienced by Evelyn Sheftel-Shapiro in 1956 when the gates of Camp BB—arguably Alberta's best loved Jewish institution—first swung open, "welcoming home" successive generations of happy campers.

Maxine Fischbein is a Calgary-based freelance writer and proud mother of two daughters who were raised with the help of Camp BB. Her article is based in part on pieces she previously wrote for the Edmonton Jewish News, JAHSENA and The Jewish Free Press.

JHSSA NEWS

JHSSA Tribute Cards

JHSSA tribute cards are available to mark any occasion. It is easy to place an order. Cards can be ordered via our website at www.jhssa.org or by contacting our valued volunteer, Jackie Busheikin, at jackie.busheikin@gmail.com or 403-281-8235. Payment can be arranged either through our website or by contacting our office. Our cards are still available for a minimum donation of \$10. Other tribute card donation opportunities include an \$18 Chai card, a \$36 sponsorship of a gift copy of *A Joyful Harvest* (presented to bar/bat mitzvah celebrants), a \$54 donation toward the Jay Joffe Memorial Program, and a \$72 donation towards the transcription of an oral history interview. A commemorative page in our *Book of Heritage*, on display at the JCC, is available for a donation of \$100.

Library and Archives Canada Grant

JHSSA is pleased to announce that Library and Archives Canada through its Documentary Heritage Communities Program has awarded \$14,840 to JHSSA to enhance accessibility to our archival holdings. This grant funding from the Government of Canada will allow JHSSA to organize, properly store, and describe all the items in our archival collections so that these documents will be accessible to researchers. Over the years, JHSSA has acquired both institutional and individual papers and records from a variety of sources including the Jewish pioneer farming communities of Rumsey, Trochu, and Montefiore, the Jewish communities of Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, and Calgary; and institutions such as the Chevra Kadisha and Congregation House of Jacob. Work on this project has commenced and will be completed by March 2017.

JHSSA is honoured to be one of the 40 Canadian archives, libraries, historical societies, museums, and other heritage organizations who have been awarded Documentary Heritage Communities Program funding during 2016/2017.

President's Message

Continued from Page 1

collection, photograph collection, oral history collection, cemetery file, newspaper clippings file, family files, exhibits, reference service, programs, and projects such as the Veterans Database, are a tribute to their dedication and skills.

JHSSA is a self-supporting non-profit society. The generous support of our members and donors is critical to ensuring the preservation of the historic material that helps us commemorate our past. The JHSSA is also very much involved in documenting the current Jewish community of southern Alberta. We know our present is tomorrow's past. Whether you are a long-time Albertan or a recent immigrant to our province, your story is part of our history. As a component of the celebrations for Canada's 150th birthday in 2017, we hope to introduce initiatives to help collect more of our community's stories.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Annual General Meeting, October 31, 2016. As this year has been declared the Year of Music in Calgary, our program will highlight the history of music in Calgary's Jewish community.

All the very best wishes for a happy and healthy 5777.

JHSSA now Tweets

If you are on Twitter, you can now get important historical updates. Do not miss the latest news from our past. Follow us @JHSSACalgary

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of a generous bequest from the
Estate of Dr. Martha Cohen^{z"l}



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DISCOVERY

Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

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