



DISCOVERY

The Journal of the

תגלית

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of Southern Alberta

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 3

FALL 2017

27th Annual General Meeting

Monday, October 30, 2017**Calgary JCC Auditorium – 7:30 pm**

Building Community: An Online Tour of Historic Jewish Calgary

Over 150 people followed Harry Sanders on the two walking tours presented by JHSSA for Historic Calgary Week this summer. The HCW tour was a small portion of our larger digital *Building Community* Canada 150 project which will be profiled at our AGM.

Our program will feature historian Harry Sanders' dynamic presentation of stories and anecdotes of Calgary's early places and people. Katie Baker will introduce the features of the online tour and highlight some sample sites.

As always, the AGM will include a 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.

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Harry Sanders leading the JHSSA Building Community Tour for Historic Calgary Week, August 3, 2017. Photographer: Ken Drabinsky. JHSSA #4000.15

President's Message

By Sandra Lipton

Happy 150th birthday Canada! It has been a summer of celebration. On June 25, JHSSA partnered with Calgary Jewish Federation and the JCC to host a wonderful event marking the official opening of the exhibit *Celebrating Canada—The Jewish Experience*, created in Ottawa for Canada 150. Thank you to Shula Banchik, Lynne Preston, Judy Shapiro and JHSSA staff for all their work in organizing this great event. Special thanks to the volunteer storytellers who provided insight into our local story. We are glad to present Shula's story of contemporary immigration in this issue. For more information on the exhibit check out the web-site: <http://cje2017.com/>

Our Historic Calgary Week event celebrated Canada 150 with two walking tours of early Jewish Calgary led by Harry Sanders. I am pleased to invite you to the launch of our digital *Building Community* tour at our October 30 AGM.

I am most pleased to announce that JHSSA was successful in the second round of Documentary Heritage Community grants from Library and Archives Canada. The three-year grant allows us to continue the processing and description of our archival collections.

We are fortunate to have had two students working with us this past summer. Jessica Tannenbaum joined us as a University of Calgary graduate student Transformative Talent intern. Jessica worked on an inventory of our oral histories and created transcripts for some

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THANK YOU TO B'NAI BRITH LODGE #816 FOR SPONSORING THIS ISSUE.

Community Milestones 1917 and 1967

The major milestones of the Calgary Jewish community in 1917 included the arrival of Rabbi Simon Smolensky as the first permanent spiritual leader of Congregation House of Jacob, the establishment of a local B'nai Brith Lodge, and the continuing reverberations of World War I, especially as it affected the Jewish community in Palestine.

Rabbi Smolensky (1882–1964) had studied at the famed Lithuanian Slabodka yeshiva and had held positions in Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. His arrival was considered newsworthy. On May 26 the *Calgary Daily Herald* reported that for the holiday of Shavuot, the rabbi would “lecture for the first time in English in this city.” Indeed, two days later, the newspaper refers to a morning sermon in Yiddish and notes the evening English sermon’s message was one of “peace but not of ease.” Rabbi Smolensky performed a wide range of services for the community. The first local marriage he performed, as noted in his register, was that of Joseph Joffe and Ruth Malkin on August 2, 1917 at the synagogue. A month later he officiated at the marriage of Abraham Busheikin and Eva Smith at Hickman’s Hall. The reason for the change of venue becomes evident from an item in *The Albertan*’s report from just a few days later; a crowd celebrated the completed renovation of the House of Jacob building in time for the High Holidays. Rabbi Smolensky’s tenure ended in 1935, but he remained in the city with his large family. He was a noted public figure in Calgary, and he is especially remembered for his significant involvement with the Calgary Hebrew School.

A delegation from Edmonton’s Grand District Lodge No. 6 of the Independent Order of B’nai Brith (IOBB) came to Calgary on June 17, 1917 to consecrate Calgary Lodge No. 816. Ben Ginsberg was elected president and J.B. Barron vice-president. Both were noted lawyers who often represented Jewish clients in Calgary courts. A festive dinner was held at the Palliser Hotel. Apparently, it was considered unusual that Calgary had secured its charter since the IOBB tended to defer new charters until the end of the war. The BB Lodge’s contributions to Calgary and beyond have continued to be featured in the local press for the past 100 years.



Ben Ginsberg, 1930s. JHSSA #717

News of the continuing conflicts abroad featured prominently in the local press, and the Jewish community rallied to provide support whenever possible. Local resident Simon Zuidema was killed in action on April 28, 1917. Born in the Netherlands in 1878, he enlisted on January 20, 1916 and served in the army’s 10th Battalion Alberta Regiment. His name appears on the Vimy Memorial among the 11,000 Canadians posted as missing or presumed dead in France. His brother Louis served in the same unit and was decorated the following year. The local war effort continued with the active promotion of Victory Loan notes and ladies sewing for the

Red Cross. While the Jewish Relief Fund for War Sufferers continued to raise funds for those struggling in Europe, the plight of the Jewish community in Palestine came to the fore in 1917. News of the suffering of Jews at the hands of the Ottoman Turks was widespread, and British authorities made an appeal for aid. The situation only worsened as the British military offensive intensified. In response to a telegram from the British Foreign Office transmitted through the Canadian Zionist Federation, Mayor Costello presided over a meeting in June at Paget Hall where Reverend W. Irvine, Major G.W. Kerby, and Rabbi Smolensky spoke of the need to aid Jews being expelled from their homes in Palestine. A total of \$624 was raised at that meeting and a citywide Tag Day was planned for later in June. The *Canadian Jewish Chronicle* reported on July 20, 1917 that many employers allowed their staff time off to canvass on the Tag Day which raised \$1615.55. A similar campaign in Lethbridge, aided by the eloquence of Rabbi Smolensky, raised \$550.



Simon Zuidema. Source: Lilian Zuidema. JHSSA #455

Many visiting speakers also kept the Jewish community abreast of international developments. The most notable visitors in 1917 were Chaim Zhitlovsky speaking on “The Tragedy of the Russian Republic” in November and Zionist leader Shmaryahu Levine in early December, just a month after the publication of the Balfour Declaration on Palestine.

The names of a number of local Jews made it into the Calgary press in 1917. Often these featured young citizens. Perhaps the most interesting was that of Minnie Gallay, daughter of Herman. Minnie, a graduate of Central Collegiate Institute and the Calgary Normal School, was reported to take up a position as teacher in the public school in Chinook, Alberta at age 15. In August, she began her teaching duties in the Little Gem district before leaving for Montreal at the end of the year to study medicine at McGill. Sibling “newsies”, Benjamin and Solomon Dworkin, were featured in a lengthy illustrated article in the March 24 edition of *The Calgary Daily Herald*. Their life story, “a fine story of pluck,” is preceded by an elaborate literary introduction. The young immigrants managed to overcome economic hardship by working their way up from selling newspapers on city corners to owning the Alexander News Stand and Barber Shop, and the Rex News Stand and Cigar Store, all the while continuing their education. The most intriguing item from *The Calgary Daily Herald* social columns of 1917 describes the chop suey party given by Mr. and Mrs. Tipp in early March in honour of the upcoming marriage of Ruth Gescheit, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Gescheit, to Mr. D. Levy. “The house was a pleasing Oriental scene with its decorations of Chinese lanterns. Music and dancing were followed by a chop suey supper. A number of the leaders of the Jewish community were present.”

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Community Milestones 1967

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The Barron family performs "Down by the Sea" at Centennial Capers in the Shaarey Tzedec, April 1967. Left to right: Tammy, Danny, Mia, Debbie, David and Paula. Photographer: John Klavins. Source: Joe Brager. JHSSA #2059

1967

Canada's centenary year was a memorable one for Calgary's Jewish community. Many Calgary Jews made the trip to Montreal for Expo 67, either to visit or for summer jobs. The Calgary Jewish Community Council, under Joe Busheikin's leadership, decided to mark this milestone celebration with a donation of \$1,500 to the University of Calgary for the purchase of books relating to Jewish studies. In April, Shaarey Tzedec members mounted *Centennial Capers*, a musical revue produced by Joe Brager and directed by Gordon Signer, which celebrated all things Canadian. It featured a large talented cast. The Beth Israel Synagogue hosted His Excellency Governor General Roland and Mrs. Michener in November at a dinner and ball attended by 275 guests. A Torah mantle was dedicated in their honour.

The contributions of local women were prominent in 1967. The *Calgary Jewish News* reported in January that Mrs. N.I. Zemans (Mozah) had been appointed to the first Senate of the newly autonomous University of Calgary and Mrs. H. Cohen (Martha) had been named to the newly established Board of Trustees of Mount Royal Junior College. Sarah Lubinsky and Charna Shapiro were honoured for their dedicated service to the community and to Zionist causes at the JNF Negev Dinner in January. Lieutenant Governor J. Grant MacEwan was the guest speaker.

Calgary was undergoing major changes. The House of Jacob building was slated for demolition by the City because of an urban renewal project. It was sold to the City and space was rented in the Alexandra School for a few weeks. In April, in response to neighbours' fears that the synagogue would endanger children's lives and devalue homes, the Calgary Planning Commission rejected the congregation's application to rebuild at Windsor Crescent and Elbow Drive.

Of course, as David Busheikin describes in his recollections elsewhere in this issue, the increasingly worrisome news from Israel became the focus of the community's attention in the spring of 1967. With the outbreak of war, the UJA campaign went into high



Doreen Kline presenting a gift of the English translation of the Talmud to University of Calgary President, Dr. Herbert Armstrong, on behalf of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO. CHW donated books to 21 Canadian universities in honour of Canada's centennial. Calgary Herald photo. Source: Doreen Kline. JHSSA #3195

gear to meet the needs for emergency funding beyond its initial goal of \$150,000. The local response exceeded expectations.

The year ended on a high note when Danny Kaye performed with the Israel National Youth (Gadna) Symphony in November for an audience of 2,800 at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium to raise funds for the United Israel Appeal.



Governor General Roland Michener being introduced by Beth Israel president, Cecil Horwitz. November, 1967. JHSSA #100

Calgary Reminiscences of the Six Day War

By David Busheikin

The Six Day War is one of those events that people remember in terms of where they were and what they were doing at the time.

I was a Grade 12 student at Henry Wise Wood High School in Calgary. Departmental exams were looming, and I had already enrolled in a summer youth group trip to Israel following the end of the school year. I had never been east of Drumheller, so I was very much looking forward to this great adventure.

My parents were active in the Jewish community. In fact, at that time my father Joe was president of the Calgary Jewish Community Council.

As the month of May 1967 wore on, nearly every day brought distressing news. The Straits of Tiran were closed to Israeli shipping. Egyptian, Jordanian and Iraqi troops were moving and massing closer to the Israeli border. The Syrian army was shelling kibbutzim lying below the Golan Heights. Blood-curdling speeches issued from Arab capitals on a daily basis, each more disturbing than the last, proclaiming the intention to destroy Israel and slaughter its Jewish inhabitants. Calls were made to rally the entire Arab nation to join in the campaign. Western nations urged the Arab states to reconsider their actions. These pleas were pretty much ignored.

For me, and I think, others of my generation, a key moment of insight came on May 27 when President Nasser of Egypt ordered the United Nations Emergency Force stationed between the Egyptian and Israeli forces in Sinai to leave within 48 hours. The order was immediately complied with—no protest, no delaying tactics, no insistence on stopping any hostile moves as a condition of leaving. They just left.

My generation had been brought up and taught in school to believe, and did believe, that the United Nations was the shining hope of mankind, and in particular we were taught about Canada's role in setting up the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), particularly the efforts of our then Prime Minister Lester Pearson. All that effort, all that good will, was gone in the snap of the fingers of a third world dictator seemingly bent upon starting exactly the war that UNEF

had been set up to prevent. This was a distressing wake-up call; we could now clearly see that the United Nations was not an effective instrument for dealing with international crises, at least those concerning Israel.

When war broke out on June 5 it was not a surprise, but it was a shock never-

theless. We were in a new situation whose outcome could not be predicted; the picture was not encouraging. Israel was significantly outnumbered in standing army troop numbers, in tanks, and in warplanes.

An emergency meeting of the Calgary Jewish Community was held that Monday evening at the Beth Israel Synagogue. About a thousand people were there, out of a Jewish community numbering around 900 families.

The meeting was a massive expression of concern and solidarity. There were Zionists and non-Zionists, religious Jews and secular Jews, people who were very involved in the Calgary Jewish community and people who were seemingly not connected to the community in any way.

My father was not at this meeting; he had been called to Montreal a few days earlier for discussions with Jewish community leaders from across Canada to strategize about how best to help Israel in its hour of need.

Nonetheless, I attended the meeting. The hall was jammed. Following prayers by local cantors and rabbis, various community leaders spoke. Among them were Maurice Paperny, Joe Shoc-tor from Edmonton, and—the only one I actually recollect—Aron Eichler. One speaker mentioned that we needed to raise money to pay for the costs of burying the many expected Israeli casualties of this war, and to provide for war orphans and perhaps adopt them. Pledges were solicited, given, and announced. When the total reached \$25,000, people broke out into applause, but they were told: "No applause, please. We don't need to be patted on the back. The boys in Israel are the ones who should get the credit." At the end of the evening a total of \$409,000 had been raised. And within 72 hours the total exceeded \$500,000.

The raising of that sum was an impressive achievement. To compare, the regular UJA campaign that had just been completed that year raised less than a third of that amount—\$137,000—for local needs and Israel combined. Another metric: the campaign that year for the United Fund (now called the United Way) raised about \$1,250,000 for all of Calgary. So the Calgary Jewish community, making up about 1% of the local population, raised about 40% of that amount in 72 hours.

In addition to raising money, more than 400 people across Canada applied to go to Israel and help out with civilian duties. About five Calgarians went, including Danny Shapiro and Barrie Carnat, both of whom had studied in university in Israel a year or two earlier. One of the Israeli teachers at the Calgary Hebrew School, Mr. Harel, abruptly left the school and the city to join his military unit.

Barrie Carnat later wrote, "...when the 1967 war broke out, I felt it was my duty, responsibility to help in whatever way I could. Of course by the time I got there, the war was over and the need for volunteers was less acute. It was nonetheless a special experience. I was first sent to a kibbutz in the Galilee, but later was on two army bases including one in the Sinai. There we saw the results of war, tanks and trucks destroyed, a boot lying in the sand with a bone sticking out."

But while the war was raging on, we in Calgary thirsted for information. I took my transistor radio to school every day and listened



David Busheikin plants a tree in Israel, 1967. Source: David Busheikin. JHSSA #2977

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Calgary Reminiscences of the Six Day War

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for a news update between classes. I'm sure it was against the rules, but nobody tried to stop me. And I wasn't alone. Judy Shapiro took to skipping classes altogether to turn on her car radio.

We were riveted. One minute we would be in social studies class, learning the core curriculum for that year: the history of the twentieth century. The next minute, at the click of a radio dial, we would be hearing history, in real time, being made. The history of our people.

On the first day, news reports were scattered and piecemeal, basically what the media correspondents could see on the streets and what they were told by the government spokesmen. By the second day, the reports were coalescing into two distinct narratives. According to the Arab narrative, Tel Aviv was being bombed, the Haifa oil refinery had already been hit, battles were raging in the Negev, and scores of Israeli war planes had been shot down, over 80 by Egypt alone. By contrast, according to the Israeli narrative, the Arab air forces had been neutralized, the Israel Defense Force was moving into East Jerusalem and the West Bank and starting to mop up in Sinai. Both narratives were implausible to us, but we hoped that there was at least some truth to the reporting from the Israeli side.

By Wednesday, the media were reporting that the Israeli narrative, as improbable as it seemed, was actually correct, and that,

although there was still military activity in the West Bank and Sinai and heavy fighting in the Golan Heights, Israel was on its way to a victory that was overwhelming and dramatic.

A wave of relief swept over the community. In a matter of 48 hours, our anxiety and dread had turned to euphoria.

With respect to the reaction of the non-Jewish citizenry, I preface my remarks by saying that then, as now, the vast majority knew little and cared little about what was going on in that remote corner of the world.

I have saved the newspapers from that time period. The run-up to the war, and the war itself, were covered extensively with reports from several correspondents posted in various locales. Some of the commentators expressed concern that oil boycotts threatened by some of the Arab countries and the closing of the Suez Canal would hurt the economy. However, the reports, editorials, and letters to the editor were generally favourable to Israel. The Arab side was seen as behaving badly. This was a David-and-Goliath story with a gratifying ending that made for entertaining reading by the general public. At that time, none of the moral complexities about occupation or settlements existed, so the moral dimension of the conflict was pretty straightforward. And the Calgary demographic was overwhelmingly white and Christian. On their return from Israel, Danny Shapiro and Barrie Carnat were asked to be on a radio call-in program to talk about their experiences. A newspaper article marvelled at the dedication and commitment of the Jewish community in raising substantial funds for the Israeli cause.

The Canadian government, under Prime Minister Pearson, took pains not to be seen as taking sides in the hostilities, other than to affirm Israel's right to exist. But even that was enough to earn the wrath of Egypt and other Arab states. They specifically condemned Canada, as part of an overall deflection of blame for their humiliating defeat.

Just one other observation. I believe that the Six Day War instilled in the impressionable minds and hearts of many in my generation a pride in Israel, and a commitment to standing up for it, and that this ethos has remained with us for life. We were able to glimpse the abyss of possible alternative outcomes and appreciate the achievements of the actual events. We see people now in their sixties and seventies, some of them still opinion-shapers and decision-makers in the public arena, who were shaped by that event and have imprinted it into their consciences.

My planned trip to Israel that summer actually came to pass, although I was now with an American-based group called Israel Tour for Teenagers. By the time we arrived the war was over, but its aftermath was everywhere. Many of our experiences were unforgettable: sitting in a room learning the words to *Yerushalayim shel zahav*, the defining song of that conflict, with curious children peeking into the open windows; visiting all the major Palestinian Arab towns and cities; the surprise of witnessing children throwing stones at our bus in Gaza; and being at the first post-war Tisha B'Av services at the (yet to be gender-segregated) Western Wall, surely the happiest imaginable commemoration of such a mournful anniversary.

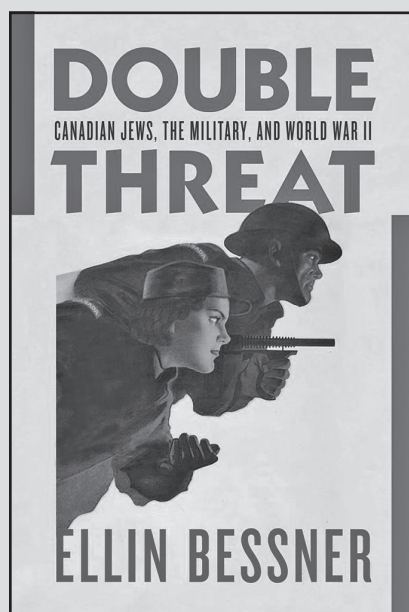
This is an edited version of a presentation David Busheikin gave at the commemoration of the 1967 war at the JCC in June.

Calgary JCC Jewish Book Festival in partnership with JHSSA presents **Double Threat: Canadian Jews, the Military and World War II**

by Ellin Bessner

Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 11:00 am at the JCC

Of the nearly 17,000 Jewish Canadians who enlisted in World War II, over 190 were decorated for bravery and nearly 450 died in service. Journalist Ellin Bessner spent many years of research and conducted 300 interviews for her new study of the lives of some of these proud Canadians who, as Jews, faced a "double threat" fighting Nazism. Ellin's engaging presentation about her research was part of the 2016 Association of Canadian Jewish Studies conference and JHSSA is pleased to co-host her talk about her important work.



My Story of Becoming Canadian

by Irene Shula Banchik

To mark 150 years of Confederation, the Calgary Jewish Community Centre hosted a community wide celebration on June 25, 2017. The Canadian Jewish Experience exhibit, created in Ottawa, was on display in the lobby and the JCC Community Klezmer Band entertained the crowd. Local politicians brought warm greetings and exhibit curator, Sandra Weizman, presented some insights about notable Jewish Canadians. JHSSA set up four storytelling stations in the auditorium where volunteers related stories about local Jewish immigrants to whom they had a personal connection. These stories were divided into four topics: *Agricultural Settlers*, presented by Zena Drabinsky; *Urban Settlers and Merchants*, presented by Reva Faber; *post World War II Immigration*, presented by Jeff Eichler; and *Contemporary Immigration*, presented by Shula Banchik. Here is a brief version of Shula's story.

At the end of the year 2000, Argentina was again living one of many economic crises suffered since the 1930s. This time there was hyperinflation, loss of productivity, unemployment, etc. In order to minimize the damage, the ruling government restricted bank deposits and withdrawals to \$250 per week per account. This was known as the *corralito*. This did not go well with the people and the *cacerolazo* (pot banging) protests started and I joined in.

The President and the Minister of Economy had to resign. Argentina had five presidents from December 30, 2001 to January 2, 2002. During this turmoil that started in early fall 2001, the Jewish community of Winnipeg sent a delegation to Buenos Aires to promote immigration to their city and help families envision a better future. My then partner Diego and I were exiting the offices of the



Diego Smola and Shula Banchik become Canadian citizens, March 23, 2010. Source: Shula Banchik. JHSSA #2978

immigration lawyer at 9:00 am on September 11, 2001. It was 10:00 am in New York and the South Tower of the World Trade Center was collapsing. With a country in bankruptcy and a world in horror, we decided to search for stability and hope; we believed Canada was able to offer that to us.

Our immigration process took a couple of years until we had all the paperwork, medical records and finances in place. In order to qualify as a landed immigrant, the Canadian government required me to have a certain amount deposited in a Canadian bank account. I'm proud to say that I was one of the first individuals to take money out of the *corralito* via a judicial appeal.

Diego arrived in October 2004 with a milk run flight created from points: Buenos Aires, New York, Chicago, Winnipeg. Work in his field—information technology—didn't look feasible at that time and he decided to head west, to Vancouver. Money was scarce so he took a Greyhound all across the prairies. With such a long trip, Diego decided to make a stop half way, in Calgary. I emailed a web-based group called *Argentinos en Calgary* and asked if anyone would lend Diego a couch during his rest stop. Sandra M., one of the members, replied. Sandra told her friend Roz O. that she would be hosting a young Argentinean Jewish guy, and Roz, who couldn't control her Jewish motherly instincts, had to meet him. It was love at first sight. Roz and her husband Danny became Diego's "adopted" parents in Canada. Roz offered Diego her guest room, allowing him the peace of mind to start looking for a job. We will be forever grateful to this couple for their hospitality and for being our first Canadian friends.

Diego soon got a job for IBM in Edmonton and moved out to busy Jasper Avenue. For almost a year, he would spend many weekends

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Attestations: A Military Mosaic of Unexpected Stories presented by Roberta Kerr

Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 7:00 pm
in the JCC Seniors' Lounge

Roberta Kerr will present interesting and somewhat unusual stories of Jewish veterans of both World Wars who had a significant connection to southern Alberta. JHSSA is offering this program in honour of Remembrance Day in Canada's sesquicentennial year. These stories are largely based on information gleaned from veterans' attestation papers that Roberta has accessed through Library and Archives Canada. The stories of our veterans reveal the diversity of those who served in the military. Military records reveal veterans from rural as well as urban backgrounds, recent immigrants as well as Canadian-born, those with advanced degrees as well as those with little education. There are stories of men who continued to attempt to enlist after an initial rejection and of siblings who all signed up for service.

Roberta is continuing to enter the information derived from the military records into our Southern Alberta Jewish Veterans of World War I & II Database thanks to a donation from the Rebecca Block Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation Calgary.

9th Annual Jay Joffe Memorial Program

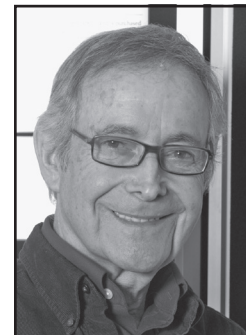
In Partnership with the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival

Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 2:45 pm

Cuba's Forgotten Jewels: A Haven in Havana



Every year JHSSA honours the memory of founding president, Jay Joffe, with a film that explores Jewish history in an engaging way. This year's presentation, directed by Judy Kreith and Robin Truesdale, examines the stories of Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust, whose only option for escape was the Caribbean island of Cuba. Their story is not widely known. Refugees who made it to Havana found work in the newly transported trade of diamond polishing. *Cuba's Forgotten Jewels* tells the story about diamonds becoming the



currency that sustained the refugees and merged two distinctly different cultures. The film features first-hand accounts of escape to Havana and of life in an exotic and unfamiliar land. This history is especially relevant now at a time when refugees fleeing conflicts around the globe are again being turned away from safe shores.

ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUBMITTED JHSSA MEMBERSHIP FORMS TO OUR OFFICE BY NOON ON OCTOBER 25, 2017 WILL BE ENTERED IN A DRAW FOR TWO FREE TICKETS TO THE SCREENING OF THIS FILM.

Becoming Canadian

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in Calgary until Roz told him that a friend of hers was looking for an IT person to join his start-up in Calgary. Diego qualified for the job, and on September 1, 2005 he moved back to Calgary. That same day I arrived in Canada.

A very conscious decision to build our life in Calgary was to be part of the Jewish community. Lo and behold we rented an apartment two blocks from the Calgary JCC. The JCC gave us a warm welcome by granting us a free membership for a year. We were starting to call Calgary home.

Three years after arriving in Calgary, I was hired by the Calgary JCC as the Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, and later I was promoted to my current position, Cultural Arts & Israeli Programming Manager. The JCC is home to me mostly because there I can be creative.

Many people and institutions helped us settle in and we gradually embraced the Canadian way of living. First of all we started dressing in layers, we smiled at everyone we saw on the street, and I started volunteering for different organizations, including the Calgary International Film Festival. It was there that I learned about the Walk-In Closet at the Making Changes Association, a not-for-profit organization that helps immigrant women and women in general to dress for success. The day I arrived in Calgary was a breezy and cold afternoon, though the sun was shining. My wardrobe was okay, but I kept hearing this "dress in layers" motto that I had never heard before.

One of my new Canadian friends recommended I go "find layers" (those words again) at the Walk-In Closet. When I got there, it was heaven on earth for a fashionista like me! Not only for the clothing options I had for my upcoming job interviews, but also for the warmth and love that the volunteers offered me. The connection we made was instant and I couldn't wait to have my second appointment. They definitely showed me how "finding layers" worked: first a cami, then a top, followed by a cardigan, then a coat, and last a scarf and a hat.

The experience was so fulfilling that I wanted to give back. I wanted other newcomers to have the fun, the respect, and the empowerment this agency instills in its clients to dive into creating a better life for themselves. So 11 years ago, I decided that I wanted to volunteer for this organization. For the past five years I've been a team leader one Saturday per month. Altogether, the experience of giving my time and energy to this organization has contributed to making me a better person and very proud of becoming a Canadian citizen. I am grateful to live in a country that offers so many opportunities for people to become their best.

Originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, Shula studied filmmaking in Mexico City, specializing in documentary films. The full version of Shula's essay can be found at <http://100.jcca.org/celebrating-canada-150/>

President's Message

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video interviews. We are also appreciative of Suzie Kim's work as a summer student on our Library and Archives Canada grant and her ongoing work as a volunteer with our archival collection. Suzie is entering a Masters of Library Science program this fall.

JHSSA served as an important resource for Calgary Canadian Hadassah-WIZO's centennial publication and for the display featured at the celebratory tea in September. It was also our pleasure to partner with Temple B'nai Tikvah to host Dr. Ira Robinson at a September 13 Lunch and Learn.

The efforts of Casino chairman Mel Ksienski and all those who helped with our September casino are much appreciated.

The JHSSA gratefully acknowledges the continued support of Calgary B'nai Brith Lodge #816 with their sponsorship of this issue of *Discovery*.

I hope to see you at our fall programs. Wishing you a happy and healthy 5778!

Order of Canada

For Canada's sesquicentennial year, JHSSA proudly recognizes the achievements of those Jewish Canadians named to the Order of Canada who have a close connection to southern Alberta. They have either grown up here or moved here and continued to excel in their chosen fields. Note: O.C. refers to Officer of the Order of Canada and C.M. refers to Member of the Order of Canada. The date refers to the year of appointment.

Samuel Belzberg, O.C.	2001
Jenny Lavin Belzberg, C.M.	1996
David Bercuson, O.C.	2004
Harry Cohen, C.M.	1974
Martha Block Cohen, C.M.	1975
William Epstein, O.C.	1990
Bernard Ghert, C.M.	2002
Marsha Pearlman Hanen, C.M.	1999
Stewart Harris, C.M.	2015
Muriel Libin Kovitz, C.M.	1977
David Lander, C.M.	1990
Alvin Libin, O.C.	2001
Jack Mintz, C.M.	2015
Esther Manolson Robins, C.M.	1984
Morris C. Shumiatcher, O.C.	1981
Harry Veiner, C.M.	1982
Miriam Switzer Winston, C.M.	2002
Mozah Goldberg Zemans, O.C.	1975

Mark your calendar. Save the dates of our upcoming programs: October 30 AGM, November 5, November 29, December 10. Details in this issue.

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- ☐ Sustainer – \$250 ☐ Family/Corporate/Institutions – \$45
☐ Benefactor – \$125 ☐ Individual – \$25
☐ Patron – \$75

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

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Shem Tov Award



Bruce Libin presents this year's Shem Tov Award to JHSSA volunteer Ken Drabinsky, June 2017. Source: Calgary Jewish Federation. JHSSA # 4106.17 Ken's focus as JHSSA director has been on genealogy. He presented a series of workshops in 2017 and plans to continue in the coming year. For details, contact the JHSSA office.

DISCOVERY

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The editors welcome submissions for publication relating to areas of Calgary and Southern Alberta Jewish history. All articles should be typed, documented and sent for consideration.

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