



DISCOVERY

The Journal of the

תגלית

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 2

SPRING 2017

Enjoy reading *Discovery*?

Help keep history alive by supporting the
Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

Discovery and the ongoing work of JHSSA are 100% funded by your donations and casino funding.
Please join our over 200 members and supporters in helping JHSSA preserve and promote
the history of the Jewish communities of southern Alberta.

Contact our office at 403-444-3171, or use the membership form on the back of this page.

Join us today to preserve our yesterdays

Please indicate your preference

Membership Categories:

Membership year is from September to the following September

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Sustainer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 Family/Corporate/Institutions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Benefactor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Patron | |

Additional Donation _____

I would like to receive my tax receipt by: ☐ Email ☐ Canada Post

Tax receipts for total amount of all donations (including membership) will be issued at the end of tax year.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

I would like to receive occasional email updates about JHSSA programs:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Form of Payment:

Cheque ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Other ☐

Please make cheques payable to: Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Amount being charged: _____

Cardholder Name (as on card): _____

Signature: _____

This form is available on our website with an option for secure payment online.

SUPPORT THE JHSSA

- ☐ I am interested in serving as a volunteer
- ☐ I have historical material I would like to donate



Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta
 1607 – 90th Avenue SW
 Calgary AB T2V 4V7
 Phone: 403-444-3171
 Website: jhssa.org Email: jhssa@shaw.ca
 Twitter: @jhssacalgary



DISCOVERY

The Journal of the

תגלית

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of Southern Alberta

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 2

SPRING 2017

Building Community: A Walking Tour of Historic Jewish Calgary

Sunday, July 30, 10:30 am–12:30 pm or Thursday, August 3, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm

JHSSA will unveil the prototype of its Canada 150 project—a walking tour of some of our community's founding businesses, families and organizations—during Historic Calgary Week this summer. The tour is being developed as a self-guided experience, available in both paper and digital formats, but for its first outing Harry Sanders will be our guide to the early Jewish presence in Calgary. His illustrated tour will highlight locations and stories important to the community from the 1880s to the end of the Second World War, including houses and apartment buildings, business and meeting sites, office and industrial buildings, even a railway depot. Some of the locations may be familiar, like the former House of Israel on 18th Ave. S, or the site of Jaffe's Book and Music Exchange on 8th Ave. SE, but there are sure to be some new ones—and there are always new stories!

Included on the tour, for example, is a stop at Studio Bell, 850–4th St. SE, home to the National Music Centre. The National Music Centre opened in 2016 in the Downtown East Village, an old mixed-use district that included the homes and businesses of Jews as well as other Calgarians. Part of the new facility takes a familiar shape—that of the King Edward Hotel, which has been re-created on its original site and clad in its original brick walls. The Eddie may be best remembered by the identity established in the 1980s when Jew-



Jaffe's Book and Music Exchange, 223-225 – 8th Ave SE. City of Calgary Archives

ish owner Jack Karp transformed the aging tavern into a popular blues bar. But the hotel's Jewish connection goes back to the First World War, when Nate Green was its manager. His tenure ended in 1918 following a series of unfortunate events—that you'll learn all about on the tour.

The Building Community tour will be offered twice during Historic Calgary Week, first on Sunday, July 30th, 10:30 am–12:30 pm, and again on Thursday, August 3rd, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm: meet at the Municipal Plaza, by City Hall. For more information, please contact the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta at jhssa@shaw.ca or 403-444-3171.

Celebrating the Canadian Jewish Experience Sunday, June 25, 2017 at 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the JCC

JHSSA is proud to be part of our community's Canada 150 celebrations. On Sunday, June 25th the JCC will celebrate Canada's Jewish community and its role in the history of our nation. The day will include the official opening of the travelling exhibit, *The Canadian Jewish Experience*, which was developed for the sesquicentennial and was opened in Ottawa this spring. Calgarian Sandra Morton Weizman did the research and writing for the exhibit. She will be on hand at the JCC to present a brief talk about her research for the exhibit. In addition, the JHSSA will present some local stories about the immigrant experience from our files. This free event is open to the general public. Refreshments will be served. We also welcome our readers to submit family stories (hopefully with a photo) about becoming Canadian to the JHSSA office.

In this Issue:

Building Community: A Walking Tour of	
Historic Jewish Calgary	3
Celebrating the Canadian Jewish Experience.....	3
Anything Goes for the Hadassah Bazaar	4
President's Message.....	4
Heritage Park Restores Colonist Rail Car	4
Al Rubin: Community Serviceman.....	5
Stones of Remembrance	6
Sacred Treasure: The Cairo Genizah.....	6
Photo to Identify.....	6
Doing Research at JHSSA	7
JHSSA News	8
All In the Family – Family Day 2017	8



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

FOUNDATIONS
COMMUNAUTAIRES
DU CANADA

Canada



CALGARY
FOUNDATION
FOR COMMUNITY, FOREVER

Anything Goes for the Hadassah Bazaar

As part of the celebrations of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO's centennial, Calgary CHW held a mini bazaar on May 14th. From its inception in 1960, the annual Hadassah Bazaar was a much anticipated event in this city. Despite its historic popularity, Hadassah women did not rest on their laurels. They constantly came up with new schemes to publicize the fundraising event. In 1980 they staged a

Mad Hatter's Tea Party on 8th Avenue in full costume. Other promotions through the decades included broadcasting the weather report from a local radio station's small plane on the way to the Bazaar, parading as court jesters in front of the Sun newspaper building, and hosting a wine and cheese party for the media. Their efforts certainly seem to have paid off because the JHSSA Local Newspaper Collection abounds with clippings about the Hadassah Bazaar year after year.

President's Message

By Sandra Lipton

Recently, I attended a conference commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. One of the speakers at the conclusion of the conference emphasized that "history matters" and highlighted the importance of sharing stories. JHSSA's goal is to collect, preserve, and share the stories of Jewish individuals and the communities of Southern Alberta. While it is the financial support of our members and donors and the efforts of the board that allow us to maintain the infrastructure necessary to permit the preservation of our collective history, it is the dedication of our staff that enables us to organize and provide access to our collections; create various programs and publications; and respond to research queries. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge our very talented and incredibly hard-working staff: Agi Romer Segal, Archivist/Librarian; Katie Baker, Office Manager; Roberta Kerr, Archival Consultant. We so much appreciate their dedicated efforts on behalf of the JHSSA.



In order to tell the stories of our local Jewish community we need your participation in this endeavor. The JHSSA very gratefully accepts donations of family documents and photos, welcomes community members willing to be interviewed as part of our oral history program, and is always seeking articles for our journal *Discovery*.

2017 celebration events for Canada's sesquicentennial include *The Canadian Jewish Experience* exhibit on display in Ottawa until spring 2018. We are most pleased to be co-hosting the traveling version of this exhibit from June 21 to July 5, 2017. Please join us for the official opening of the exhibit at the Jewish Centre on Sunday, June 25th to view the panels which cover the themes of migration, armed forces, human rights, business, arts and culture, architecture, sports, and politics.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the Calgary B'nai Brith Lodge 816, and in this issue we pay tribute to this centenary with an article on Al Rubin. Al was a dedicated community volunteer. Among his numerous leadership roles was a term as President of Calgary B'nai Brith. Al donated material relating to his extensive community work to our archives.

Please also mark your calendars for the preview of our newly developed walking tour of historic Jewish Calgary, which will be led by Harry Sanders on July 30th and again on August 3rd as part of Historic Calgary Week. We would also greatly appreciate your support for our upcoming casino, September 26th and 27th. This is our major fundraising source. Please contact the office if you are able to volunteer.

Wishing you all a warm and relaxing summer.



Calgary Hadassah-WIZO Mad Hatter Tea Party on 8th Avenue, April 1980. Left to right: Linda Horwitz as the Griffin, Gail Himelfarb as Alice, Pauline Pankowski as the Queen of Hearts, Judy Sanderson as the White Rabbit and Ida Eichler as the Mad Hatter. Source: Calgary CHW. JHSSA #3180

Heritage Park Restores Colonist Rail Car

Heritage Park is launching a major project this year to celebrate Canada's birthday. They have begun extensive restorations on a 1905 wooden colonist Canadian Pacific Railway car, Car 1202, donated to them in 1964 by CPR. In addition, they have created a related exhibit and theatrical presentation that will be running at the park in early July. Colonist rail cars were specifically built to provide budget transportation to Canadian settlers, conveying many early immigrants as they moved west from the seaports where they arrived. The cars fell out of use during the Depression, but were deployed as troop cars in World War II and subsequently carried a new wave of post-war immigrants. Starting in September the exhibit and performance will tour across Canada, finishing at Pier 21 in Halifax. Car 1202, one of only two CPR colonist cars still in existence, will remain at Heritage Park. Restoration is expected to continue into 2018.

Al Rubin: Community Serviceman

Alex Rubin grew up near Ottawa, the youngest of eight children born to Jacob and Zicha (Rachel) Rubin, who had emigrated from Minsk in 1912. The following excerpts from his oral history have been slightly re-organized for continuity.

Al joined the air force in 1936 and served until the end of the war, working primarily as a store keeper, often troubleshooting at various bases across the prairies. During that time he welcomed the opportunity to lend someone a hand.

There's a couple of interesting stories where I helped Jewish people. One was in Yorkton [Saskatchewan]. The Feingold family. Mr. Feingold was a very fine man. He was a shoemaker. He was the old style shoemaker that had the awl, sewing machine, and punched the holes in the leather. You had that contraption where you put the shoe on top. With the machine, it was still 90% hand-work. We were shipping our shoes and boots into Winnipeg to get repaired. You know, with servicemen, with 1,500 on the Station, we've got a lot of shoes to keep repaired. I went to my officer and said, "You know, it's ridiculous that we have to send these in and get them repaired there 'cause they make mistakes, lose the tags. They come back, the left and the right don't match." He said, "What do you propose?" I said, "I think I'll go into town and see if I can find a shoemaker that will do it here. Why should we send them all the way to Winnipeg?" So I did. I went to Mr. Feingold. He says, "I'd love the job but I haven't got a machine." I says, "Can you get one?" and he says, "Yes. As a matter of fact, there is one in town that he's trying to sell me but I haven't got the money. I can't afford it. Even the bank won't give me money." I says, "If I give you a contract to do this, would you get the money?" "Oh", he said, "sure." To make a long story short, he got the contract and he hired the other shoemaker when he needed help.

And the second guy was in Edmonton. The Station provided a tailor with a place to work. He didn't have to pay rent, as long as he looked after the uniforms. This fellow had the rights to do that and he had hired Bill Switzer, who passed away quite a while ago, to be the tailor there. And he would send the dry cleaning out and he got a commission on the dry cleaning. Finally he got fed up. He wasn't making any money. He had to pay Bill his wages and he wasn't getting anything out of it. So he said to Bill, "Here, you can have the whole thing." Even the machine that was there—an old sewing machine. Bill called me in and he says, "I have a chance to get this but I don't know what to do." So I sat down with him and we wrote out a contract. I asked him, "How do you put a button on a uniform?" He says, "How much is it worth to sew a button on?" I went back to another and I says, "What would it cost to sew a badge on?" I suggested ten cents. He says, "Okay." I says, "We have to move the shirt here, because the badges have to be in a certain part. We have to measure." It ended up, the most expensive thing he had to do was twenty-five cents. So the first month, we presented the bill, the accountant phoned me up and he wanted to see me. I came there and I said, "What's the problem?" He says, "You know, we got a bill for uniform repairs and so forth, it's a thousand dollars!" I says, "So?" He says, "Well last time, when the other fellow was doing it, it was three hundred dollars a month." I says, "Well the other fellow didn't work twelve hours a day, or fifteen hours a day. This man's worked fifteen hours a day. He gets five cents per button and ten

cents per badge. Come on!" He says, "Okay, we can do that alright." That put Bill in a very good position. When the [Canadian] air force closed up, he went over to work for the American air force and he did very well. Made a nice living.

Al was posted to Calgary in 1943, where he met and married Phyllis Waterman. Phyllis's father, Charles, had an importing business, Western Canada Importers, and was very involved in community work.



Al Rubin, c 1945. JHSSA #3179

Every time I came to Calgary, Phyllis used to get a little upset, because I'd say, "I have to go call on somebody for UIA [United Israel Appeal] with your dad." I was his partner every time. [chuckles] We'd go around canvassing. And then I got out of the service, actually in November 1945, and went right to work with Western Canada Importers. It was the office for the UIA campaign, and also for the Talmud Torah. You can imagine how many pieces of paper we had. We had booklets made up. I'd come in on the weekends and we'd put these little booklets together.

[Charles Waterman] taught me a lot about going to see people. He had a way about him, and if you copied that, you can't go wrong. After that I was at every UIA campaign that came through. In those days, I remember the names of the old timers, like Shanka [Sam] Shlafmetz, Sam Davner, Morris Walachel and Henry Goldberg, Ben Pearlman. All the Pearlmans and Papernys. The first time I attended a B'nai Brith meeting, it happened to be the annual election and they put my name up. Joe Cohen and Myer Miller I think was there. They put my name up for Secretary. My first meeting ... I became Secretary of the B'nai Brith, I worked up to President. I remember, we had our meetings, they were so packed. We had to go outside in the hallway of the old Community Centre, we didn't have enough room. They used to have a hundred, hundred and fifty. That was when we didn't have a huge community.

I did a lot of work [for the community]. When I arrived here the Community Centre was a concrete building with nothing in it except the basement. We didn't have enough money to finish it. That's one of the first things in which I was involved. Charles Waterman and my brother-in-law [David Waterman] decided that the east wing should become a Hebrew School rather than being in the basement. We got a hold of Ted Riback. Ted Riback was in charge and I was the secretary and we finished the inside of the building ...

The UJA [United Jewish Appeal] Campaign. I think I never missed a year until this past year [2003]. I was President of the Calgary [Jewish] Welfare Fund [precursor of Calgary Jewish Community Council], people didn't even know about. I was President there in 1954. I was President of the La Jolla Cancer Research Foundation, just outside of San Diego. I was President of the Calgary Hebrew School for a few years. I was a lifetime member of Hadassah. I worked in the Bazaars raising money. I also tried to raise money for the Jewish Family Service.

Continued on Page 7

Stones of Remembrance

The audience at the JHSSA Winter program in February were enthralled by Izak Paul's presentation about his painstaking research into his family's history, including the details of their fate in the Holocaust. Izak used his visit to Israel this spring to conduct further research in local archives.

From Israel, Izak travelled to Vienna to view the Stones of Remembrance installed in front of the building where three generations of the Paul family had lived before the war. It was Izak's research that led to the installation of the commemorative stones. He writes: "It was a special moment for me to see in person the four Stones of Remembrance. By good fortune, someone opened the main entrance door while we were standing there, so we were able to go inside the building and up the stairs to the door of the apartment where they lived. I was so happy to see the hallway where my father as a child must have run up and down and played".

Calgary Jewish Federation is hosting an updated version of Izak's presentation, incorporating his new discoveries, on Wednesday, June 14th at the JCC.



Izak and Hindy Paul beside the Stones of Remembrance installed in front of the pre-war Paul residence in Vienna. May, 2017. Source: Izak Paul. JHSSA #2976

Photo to Identify

What can you tell us about this undated I.L. Peretz School photo?



Sacred Treasure: The Cairo Genizah

One hundred and sixty people packed the Calgary JCC auditorium on the evening of March 29th to hear Rabbi Mark Glickman's informative and humorous talk based on his book, *Sacred Treasure: The Cairo Genizah*. A joint program between JHSSA and Calgary Council of Christians and Jews, Rabbi Glickman's presentation traced the history of the Genizah, highlighted some of the gems it preserved, and told the story of his trip to visit the documents and their original home. Photographs of letters, book fragments and historical figures provided interesting illustrations, and an audio clip animated a piece of sheet music found in the Genizah. The well-received program concluded with a question-and-answer session, and an author signing.

Doing Research at JHSSA

As many organizations and families in southern Alberta celebrate major milestones and anniversaries with events, projects and publications, JHSSA is receiving an increased number of research requests, and also seeing an increase in the number of researchers wanting to access our holdings. These holdings include subject files, newspaper collections and photographs, as well as primary source (i.e. original / archival) material. Whether you are new to our shelves or a returning friend, the following information aims to make your in-office research visit a success.

Before you visit the office, define your topic and goals as much as possible. The more specific you are, the more productive your research is likely to be. Once you've set your scope, make an appointment to come in and look at our subject files, which are always the starting point.

JHSSA subject files cover a wide range of topics regarding the history of the Jewish communities of southern Alberta, both the institutions and the individuals. Material in the subject files is usually

photocopied from original sources, and may include related articles and research notes, newspaper clippings, organizational or family histories, oral history transcripts, and samples of minutes or correspondence. Keep in mind that our focus is on the Jewish communities of southern Alberta, and while we do have some subject file information on other Jewish communities and Jewish history in general, your query might be better answered using the resources of other organizations like the Glenbow Museum or JAHSENA (Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta).

Also readily available to researchers are the Local Jewish Press binders, which contain copies of the local Jewish newspapers from 1962 to the present day, and the clipping binders, which contain copies of articles relating to the Jewish community from the *Calgary Herald*, *Albertan* and *Sun* newspapers, some as far back as the 1890s.

If the subject and newspaper files are not sufficient, the next step is to look at the archival description* created for the organization or family/individual you are researching. This description includes details of the specific primary source material held by our archives, which is stored off-site. If there is material listed that you need to look at, jot down its letter and number code as indicated on the description, and the material will be retrieved from archival storage and brought to the research area for you. Please note that not all staff handle archival material, so this may require advance notice. In addition, it may not be possible to provide all the requested material at once, so it is advisable to try to prioritize your requests.

JHSSA also maintains an index of our Photo Collection, which can be searched by name or by subject. Each photo has an index card that can be looked at to confirm its relevance to your research. Should you need to see the original print, jot down the name and photo number and the photo will be retrieved for you.

While some of these procedures may seem complicated, they are all in accordance with standard archival practice and are implemented to maintain the integrity of our archives. If you have questions about any of our collections, or the procedures used to access them, don't hesitate to contact the office.

**The creation of these descriptions is an ongoing process. If the organization or family you're researching doesn't have a description yet, ask the archivist to compile a list of our primary sources.*



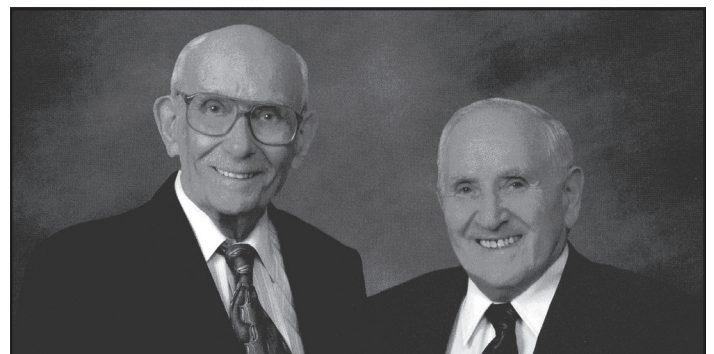
Therese Nagler using the JHSSA cemetery index. JHSSA #4000.14

Al Rubin: Community Serviceman

Continued from Page 5

It's a story that goes back to Depression days. We had a store and my father was home and a Jewish man, what do you call him, the *sheliach*, came to the door and talked to my dad. My dad reached in his pocket and gave him two dollars. When he left I says, "Pa, how could you give him two dollars?" I couldn't even get a nickel to buy a coca cola at school. He had one answer: "*M' darft*." You have to. That *zedakah* is the most important thing I think in the Jewish religion, to help others.

As mentioned in the program for the 2004 JNF Negev Dinner, which honoured Al Rubin and his brother-in-law David Waterman, Al's community spirit and generosity were felt in virtually every corner of the community. He died in April 2011, at the age of 94.



David Waterman and Al Rubin, 2004 Negev Dinner brochure. JHSSA #2347

JHSSA NEWS

2017 AGM

Once again, we hope to acknowledge those in our community who have celebrated their 80th birthday in the past year at our AGM in October. Please contact our office at jhssa@shaw.ca or 403-444-3171 if you have any names to add to our list of honourees.

This year's Annual General Meeting will feature the full launch of JHSSA's Canada 150 project, the Building Communities self-guided walking tour. While a guided version will have been shared with the public during Historic Calgary Week (see the article in this issue), at our AGM we will introduce the paper and digital formats that will be available through the office and directly off our website. We hope to incorporate interactive features in the digital versions which will be accessible from your computer or mobile device. We'd like to include stories from you! Contact the office with your memories of Calgary's Jewish downtown and East Village, or for more details.

All in the Family – Family Day 2017



Thank you to Sara Drabinsky and Ken Drabinsky who volunteered at the JHSSA All in the Family event on February 14, 2017, in the lobby of the JCC. They were on hand to help with genealogy research questions. Ken is holding his final free genealogy workshop for this year on Sunday, June 25th at 7:00 pm in the Temple B'nai Tikvah library. JHSSA #4106.16

Upcoming Casino

Tuesday and Wednesday, September 26 and 27, 2017
at Cash Casino

The shifts are long but the returns are terrific! Did you know that on average, the work you do on your eight-hour shift is worth over \$2000 to JHSSA? Our next fund-raising casino will be held in September at Cash Casino on Blackfoot Trail. Volunteers are needed for daytime, evening and late-night (count room) shifts both days. Please contact the office if you can help. Thank you to Mel Ksienski for coordinating this event.

JHSSA Membership Updates

The following members have been added since the Winter 2017 *Discovery*. Sustainers – William and Lily Lister; Benefactors – Harvey and Rayna Rabin; Patrons – Miriam Milavsky, Jack and Betty Sharp, Valerie Grossman; Members – Sam Fishman, Sue-Anne Mayers, Susan Podlog, Minnie Segal, Sandy Shuler. Thank you to those who have made donations beyond their membership.

ACJS Conference

This year's Association of Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS) Conference is being held in Toronto June 28th–30th at Ryerson University, as part of the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences. JHSSA Archivist / Librarian Agi Romer Segal will be participating in the Archivists' Round Table discussion, speaking on the theme of "Celebrating Milestones".

Correction from Winter 2017 issue

The plaque at the site of the former Shaarey Tzedec Synagogue is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of 17th Avenue and Centre Street S. JHSSA apologizes for any confusion or inconvenience.

DISCOVERY

Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

Founding President: Jay Joffe^{c1}

Past Presidents: Betty Sherwood, Sheldon Smithens, Jack Switzer^{c1}

President: Saundra Lipton

Vice-President: Laura Shuler

Treasurer: Mary Taub

Secretary: Marni Besser

Director at Large: Shauna Switzer

Directors: Rebecca Aizenman, Emanuel Cohen, Ken Drabinsky, Sara Drabinsky, Barry Finkelman, Paul Finkelman, Halley Givritz, Sheila Gurevitch, Betsy Jameson, Jason Nisenson, Harry Sanders, Betty Sherwood, Allan Sattin

Honourary Directors: Hy Belzberg^{c1}, Jack Edelson, Henry Gutman

Archives: Agi Romer Segal, Roberta Kerr

Office Staff: Katie Baker

Editors: Katie Baker, Rona Fleising, Roberta Kerr, Agi Romer Segal, Betty Sherwood

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

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

Please address all communications on editorial and circulation matters to:

Discovery

c/o The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

1607 - 90 Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2V 4V7

Phone 403-444-3171

Email: jhssa@shaw.ca

Website: www.jhssa.org

ISSN: 1916 – 3886

© 2017 by the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta
(a non-profit, registered society). Donations gratefully accepted.