



DISCOVERY

The Journal of the

תגלית

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 1

WINTER 2016

A Brief Overview of the JHSSA Oral History Collection

By Laura Shuler, Oral History Committee Chair

"To record, preserve and present the history of Southern Alberta's Jews and the communities they built." That is the mandate of the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta. Recording people's life histories is an integral duty, responsibility and privilege that is very much a part of acknowledging, honouring and preserving the contributions and the life stories of the people who have shaped our present and our future. It is imperative to keep building and expanding our Oral History Collection as diligently as we can.

Twenty-five years ago, Bertha Gold took it upon herself to begin this valued work, and she, personally, conducted well over 50 interviews with people in our Jewish community. In the beginning, she undertook this work by gathering notes and transcribing them herself on a typewriter without the use of a recording device or a computer. Later she used a cassette recorder. She held training sessions that covered all aspects of conducting oral history interviews, outlining the best questions to ask, and suggesting ways to keep the conversation flowing. It was because of Bertha's dedication and ceaseless devotion to this pursuit that the momentum for subsequent volunteers to continue in her footsteps was set.

Since we began, JHSSA volunteers have recorded over 135 oral history interviews with people in our community who have contributed a great deal: to the country through military service,

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Bertha Gold receives JHSSA Volunteer Award from Jay Joffe, 2001. JHSSA

President's Message

By Sandra Lipton



For 25 years, JHSSA has worked to preserve and promote the Jewish history of southern Alberta. Our 2015 Annual General Meeting marked this quarter century of accomplishment with a special program remembering 30 community volunteers from Southern Alberta. Over 120 people attended the program, and they were stirred by the vignettes from the stories of: Walter Barron, Louis Belzberg, Ferne Bickman, Irwin Blackstone, Ziggy Bleviss, Dov Chetner, Harry Chetner, Hy Davids, Lou Faber, Leo Friedman, Abe and Bertha Gold, Jay Joffe, Bernie Lavin, Becky Levitt-Cohen, Helen and Norman Lipton, Sid Macklin, Edythe Pearlman, Lou Pomerance, Bert and Corinne Promislow, Sally Promislow, Mickey Sander, Archie and Charna Shapiro, Jack Sklar, Dinah Spindel, Jack Switzer and Elliot Zuckier, all of blessed memory.

As part of the Jay Joffe Memorial Program, in November we participated in the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival with our sponsorship of the film *Raising the Roof*. This thoroughly enjoyable film highlighted the importance of preserving our history. Also in November, we co-sponsored the opening event of the Jewish Book Festival. Richard Menkis, a Jewish History professor from the University of British Columbia, provided an engaging talk about his book

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THIS ISSUE OF *DISCOVERY* HAS BEEN GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE HANSON FAMILY REUNION.
THEIR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Mama Dear, There are Ways and Means: Miriam Dvorkin Remembers

Miriam Bercov Dvorkin (1913-2006), third child of Riva (nee Shapiro) and William "Billy" Bercov, was interviewed by JHSSA volunteer Bertha Gold in 1999. Their conversation started with Miriam's earliest childhood memories, when she was four or five. At this time her father had a general store in Bottrel, Alberta, on Fish Creek, west of Cochrane.

The following transcript excerpt from Miriam's oral history has been re-organized slightly for clarity:

I remember my father being very ill when I was five. He came into Calgary and my Zaida Bercov took him to the doctor. The doctor said he would like my dad to go to Rochester [Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota]. So my Zaida went with him and when he came back he had to be on a special diet.

We lived in a two-room cottage right behind the store, but separate. We had a well in our back yard to pump water, and Mama baked on a coal and wood stove. I remember I once asked Mama how she knew the temperature [of the oven]—she said "I know exactly, I just put my hand in the oven" I marvel at her composure, she accepted so much responsibility. She was only 20 when I was born. Sixteen months later, Annette was born. Then Sophie was born seven years later. My mother said she had learned a few things in between.

When Soph was born [we moved in to Calgary] and we lived on 5th Avenue and 11th Street, across the street from the armories. I remember Edythe Pearlman living there and my aunt Edith Davis, and the Shumiatchers next door on the corner. I remember playing with Mary Caine [?] in the armories for hours. It was exciting—I just loved it. I went to school at McDougall 'til grade three, then we moved to Vancouver. My father bought a pawn shop. We lived there for a while, about four years, but he couldn't get used to the weather—the rain and the cloudiness all the time. So we moved back to Calgary.

We moved around a lot because my dad was so sick. He had had to have three-quarters of his stomach removed when he was in Rochester and so after that he had trouble, he was very tall [ill?]. When we came back [from Vancouver] we moved to Drumheller. We lived there for three or four years. Daddy had a confectionary and I have even now some of the spoons and forks he used to use to make a banana split. There was really quite a number of Jewish people there at that time. A really good settlement. The names of some of the people were Ben Backer and his wife—I don't remember her name. Hattie Joffe and Noah Joffe, I remember them very well. Noah and my father were first cousins. Bella Joffe and a brother. Jack Churgin, Mrs. Lil Weiner and her husband. So we did have a little nice community. They all had children and I loved being with them. Mama was very hospitable. It seemed natural to bring children, Jewish and non-Jewish, home from school.

I remember my dad saying to my mom, "What would you like for Hanukah, sweetheart?" She said, "Oh Billy, if only we had indoor plumbing." So we got that. I used to ask if I could [work in the store], but my father said I was too little; I had to wait until I was sixteen. But I didn't live there when I was sixteen, [only for] about two or

three years.

Mama didn't want her daughters growing up there and so we moved to Calgary. It was when my father opened The Shirt Shop, about 1927 or 1928. Izzy Weiner had a men's wear store, then there was Harry's News—my uncle, Harry Smith. Then my dad's shirt shop and then the Club Café—it was 8th Avenue and 1st Street SW. Then Eddy Cohen's store was next door to the Club Café. I remember walking downtown with my mother and my sisters—Mama knew everybody. It was a wonderful community. It gave you a wonderful feeling. Someone would call from across the street and say, "Are you going to see Billy?" My dad would say to us, "Now you are the oldest—here is 25 cents, you can take the two girls to the movies. That will be 15 cents but I can only give you 10 cents for candy." We went on Saturdays, to the Strand and the old Grand and the Variety—sometimes we sat through twice.

I was in Connaught School when we lived in the Devenish Apartments. We lived there for quite a while and then the doctor said it would be better for Daddy if we had a house. So we bought a house in Scarboro and I went to Sunalta School until grade nine, when the economy became very bad. My father couldn't make a living and he was shining shoes on 8th Avenue. He became very ill again and the doctor said we should move to a warmer climate. I knew that I wanted to go to school. I also knew that my dad didn't have any money and how was he going to survive and take care of Mama and the three children! So I asked my uncle Norman Libin if he would loan me money to take a course at Garbutt's business school [Garbutt Business College] as a secretary. I was about 16 and the course took seven months, but I did it in about five because it cost less if you did it faster. I got a job with Mr. Selwood who was a lawyer in the Bank of Commerce on 8th Avenue, upstairs. I worked there for a long time, until I met Ted [Dvorkin].

[My father] had moved to Los Angeles, my mother and father and



Ted Dvorkin and Miriam Bercov, 1936. JHSSA #2485

Mama Dear, There are Ways and Means

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my sister Sophie. Annette and I stayed here. It was about 1930. My sister Annette started going out with her ex-husband (I don't want to mention his name on tape.) Mama and Daddy were very unhappy she was going out with him and so my aunt Ethel Libin got in touch with my mother and said we should have a chaperone and that she would chaperone us to Los Angeles. We went by train to Vancouver and took a ship to Los Angeles. I remember asking my dad, "How are you managing with money?" He said, "Not too well, for every Canadian dollar I get 80 cents, it's hard for four or five people. Now Ethel is here and more visitors." I said, "Is it all right if I look for a job?" He said, "You can't work here, you're Canadian." You know at 18, you're fearless: "I'll use Mama's last name." I knew someone who was leaving her job in a cafeteria in Boyle Heights. It was a communist restaurant, and when I told my dad he said, "I don't want you to work there." I said, "Daddy, I'll be making more money than you get; I'll be making 25 American dollars a week." I had never done this before, behind a steam table, helping to prepare the food.

All the customers were [communist]. It was owned by a Mr. Jan-noff. When I went to apply for the job, my friend went with me. I was asked, "Are you a communist?" I said no. "Well do you object to working where there are communists coming for meals three times a day?" "I have no objection as long as they leave me alone." There was no problem; the problem was, there were young men who would come in and proposition you. Free love was very open amongst the communists and coming from Calgary I had had a different type of life. When someone says to you, "Would you like to go apartment hunting with me and we could live together?" Well the first time it happened I was shocked! Well after, you wisen up and you think of good answers. It was very interesting really. I have often told my children about it.

The people were professional people. They never said anything; they had private meetings in the back. Never spoke about it in the restaurant where they ate. I don't remember the name of the restaurant. They were very busy. Very nice clientele. Tremendous amount of Jewish and Russian people.

We were there a couple of years. My sister Annette didn't stay, she wanted to come back to her friend. [But] then we all came back to Calgary. [My dad] was feeling much better, it seemed he perked up a little. I don't know if he was used to the pain or if Mama took special care, but we all came back to Calgary. We'd travelled so much, you have no idea. We called ourselves gypsies.

I had met a young Jewish chap in Los Angeles that had asked me to marry him. I really thought I was going to. Then we all came back to Calgary [and] I had a phone call. He said, "Miriam, this is Ted Dvorkin. I would like to take you out." I said, "I don't think I know you." He said, "Well I was always in an older crowd. I have tickets for a hockey game." Then I knew who he was and I wanted to go out with him. He said, "Do you like hockey games?" I had never been to a hockey game but I said, "I'd love to, I love hockey, it's a wonderful



Miriam Bercov with Shapiro relatives, 1936. Source: Vera Himelfarb & Joe Shapiro. JHSSA #1151

entertainment." So we started to go out to hockey games. Teddy had said to me once, "Let's go to eat." I said no, my mother would be horrified, she has the table all ready, she had kichel with her best dishes and everything. We came back to the apartment and sure enough, Mama and Dad were waiting for us as parents did in those days. When Ted left I said to Mama and Daddy, "I am going to be the future Mrs. Dvorkin." Mama said, "That's a dreadful thing to say, what if he doesn't ask you?" "Mama dear, there are ways and means." We married in 1936.

Miriam and Ted were married for 60 years, until his death in January 1997. They had four children, nine grandchildren, and at the time of her passing in 2006, four great-grandchildren.

A Brief Overview

Continued from Page 1

to southern Alberta at large, and to our Jewish Community, past and present. Many of these interviews, now conducted with digital recorders, have been transcribed and are part of our Oral History Collection of over 200 interviews. This includes summaries or transcripts of almost 50 interviews conducted by other organizations, like the Glenbow Museum and Provincial Archives of Alberta. We also have a number of videotaped interviews with our pioneers. JHSSA volunteers continue to interview notable southern Alberta Jewish residents.

We welcome any additional suggestions about prospective community members who could be interviewed about their service and contributions. We also welcome any volunteers who would enjoy conducting interviews and participating in recording and preserving the history of so many people who deserve to be acknowledged. Please contact Laura Shuler at macsnap@shaw.ca or at 403-243-9991 for further information regarding volunteer opportunities, or with the names of any people to be added to the Oral History Interview List.

Oral History and Ethnic History

Oral History projects have become a common activity for any organization interested in preserving communal memory, and JHSSA is no exception. While it might be assumed that this is a long-established practice, the office recently received a fascinating booklet that provides a background and context for the growth in popularity of this research tool, which has only been part of formal historical research for less than 80 years. The 30-page booklet, *Oral History and Ethnic History*, is No. 32 in the *Immigration and Ethnicity in Canada Series* published by the Canadian Historical Association. Previously titled *Canada's Ethnic Groups Series*, the series is designed to provide "concise histories of particular aspects of immigration and ethnicity in Canada."

Written by Alexander Freund, the 2014 booklet provides a synopsis of the development of the oral history as a legitimate research tool, unhampered by the restrictions of structured questionnaires and documents. He notes that some federal government departments were collecting oral histories as early as the 1940s, and the following decade saw many programs implemented across the country, through Library and Archives Canada, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation radio and film projects, and various professional organizations.

There were many challenges facing the acceptance of oral history as a legitimate information source, however, for reasons ranging from concerns over the unreliability of memory, to a dismissal of the probable subject matter as trivial, since the people being interviewed weren't necessarily "important". On a practical level, there were (and are) issues ranging from technology and transcription, to interviewer training and bias.

It wasn't until the 1960s that the wealth of information contained within oral histories began to be recognized and used for formal research. It was a time of substantial change in both attitude and approach within scholarly circles, as a new group of historians, strongly connected to the various ethnic communities who had arrived in Canada over the preceding decades, embraced the concept of multi-culturalism and sought to give it "grassroots" expression.

Several major projects, broad in scope, were undertaken by the Multicultural History Society of Ontario, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Beaton Institute in Nova Scotia, and the Institut Québécois de recherche sur la culture. Other projects focused on specific events like the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919, or immigrant experiences within particular regions. Referred to as topical interviews, they sometimes have a more structured framework than life history interviews, which tend to take shape as the person's story unfolds. (Oral histories conducted by JHSSA tend to be a hybrid of these two types.)

One of the most important accomplishments of the oral history movement has been to give literal and figurative voice to those who have, historically, been ignored by the established narratives. It is a truism that "history is written by the victor"; oral histories record the stories of "the other", whether another gender, another language, another ethnicity, or another experience. They provide depth and background to historical narratives, aiding our understanding of both complex and routine circumstances.

Freund's booklet is a comprehensive overview of the field of oral history, accessible and worthwhile. Thank you to Bettina Zeisler, who donated this resource to JHSSA.

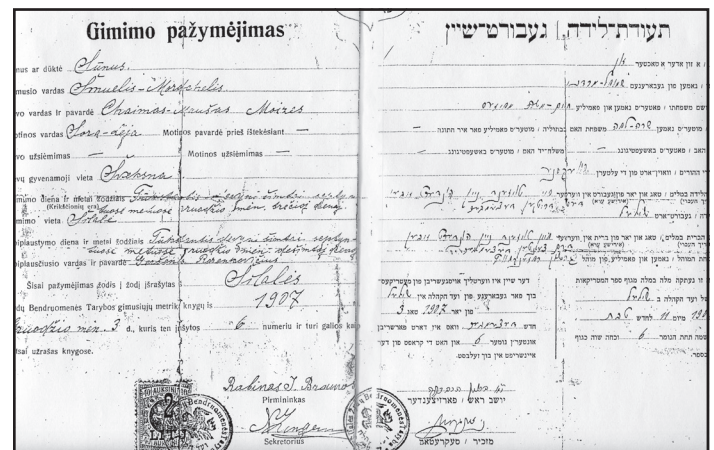
Research Inquiries

2015 was a busy year for research inquiries, with over 60 individuals and organizations requesting information about our community.

We generally receive a wide range of research inquiries, and this past year was no exception. The more routine include requests for Hebrew dates of birth or death, and the ever popular, "My grandfather's name was Goodman, was he maybe Jewish?" There are always several requests to translate documents, and two of our most recent requests each have a unique aspect. One is a dual language Yiddish / Lithuanian birth certificate, and the other is a Yiddish letter sent to the Edmonton-area's Rabbi Goldstick from Lichtenstein, that turned up at the Edson and District Historical Society. The handwriting of the letter is somewhat calligraphic, and it apparently took some time for their staff to identify it as Yiddish. (The website that they used is omniglot.com)

Inquiries arrive from various locales; curiously, within the space of one month we received two inquiries from New Brunswick, one from an individual looking for information about Shimson Heilik, and one from the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, who are compiling a veteran's database and wanted to explore a possible Calgary connection for one of their names. And while the majority of our requests come from Jewish organizations and individuals, over the past year we have provided information to both the Calgary Public Library and the City of Calgary Archives.

Our Archives were very pleased to host visiting author Richard Menkis, who spent the day following his Book Festival pre-



Dual language (Lithuanian and Yiddish) birth certificate of Sam Mozeson, 1907.

sentation at the JHSSA office, conducting research for his current project: a sourcebook of primary sources for the study of Canadian Jewish history. In terms of research, "primary sources" means first-hand material, and what Menkis and his colleague are particularly interested in are diaries, correspondence, minute books and the like. JHSSA is proud to hold the originals of several such items, and even without being able to fully explore our holdings, Menkis found a number of resources that fit his parameters. The intention is to produce a text that compiles sources representing the experiences of a broad range of individuals, from all social classes and occupations.

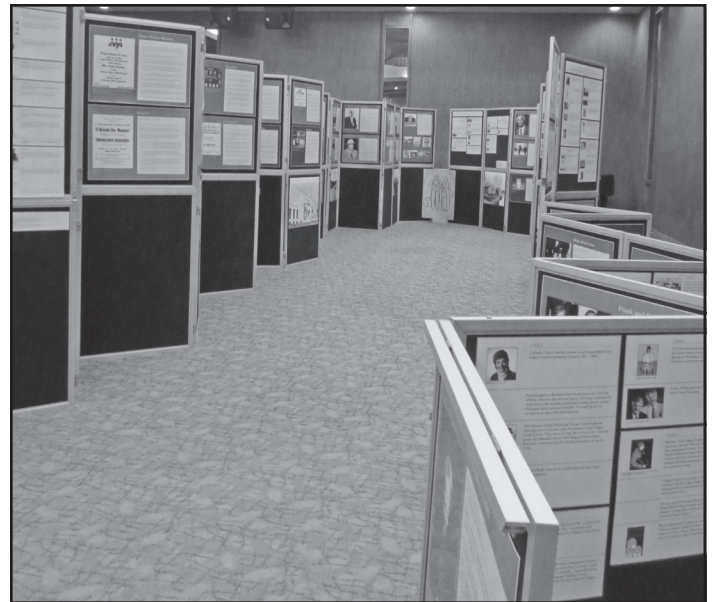
Our Re-Mounting of *A Joyful Harvest* was a Tremendous Success!

In honour of its 10th anniversary, our 2005 Alberta Centennial exhibit *A Joyful Harvest* got one last showing in its full form, thanks to the generosity of Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

Well over 200 people came into the Abraham and Hinda Belzberg Social Hall to view the exhibit over its two-week run during the Jewish Film Festival in November. Many of the visitors are new to the community since the exhibit was created, while some were themselves involved with the creation of the exhibit in 2005.

While the exhibit as a whole has been dismantled, a selection of the information panels has been kept for re-use in other displays and projects. All of the material still exists in paper and digital formats, and of course we have our wonderful book, *A Joyful Harvest: Celebrating the Jewish Contribution to Southern Alberta Life, 1889–2005*. Copies are available for purchase through the JHSSA office.

We are extremely grateful to Beth Tzedec Synagogue for its support, not just for this showing but in many ways over the years. We would like to specifically acknowledge the efforts of Bill Barkaie, Karen Emmons and Teresa Sofocleous who repeatedly, and always cheerfully, go far beyond their job descriptions.



A Joyful Harvest 10th Anniversary showing, November 2015. JHSSA #4000.14

From Our Last Issue ...

Betty Sherwood's article "Degrees of Service" prompted several responses from our readers.

Missing from the article was Calgarian Joe Busheikin BSc/44, University of Alberta. He contributed to the war effort by working as a chemist at a Montreal munitions plant.



Albert Ravvin c1943. Source: Jewish War Veterans of Calgary. JHSSA #2285

Thank you to Doran Veiner, who pointed out that Sam Veiner's surname had been misspelt in the caption of one of the article's accompanying photos.

We also received a call from Lionel Ravvin, asking that his brother Albert be included with the university students as he was enrolled at UBC for a time. While this article recognized only individuals who completed their degrees, perhaps a future article will introduce us to those members of our community who left or interrupted their studies in order to enlist. Albert was one of relatively few Jewish veterans to have served in the Royal Canadian Navy, as an ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) equipment operator.

Prisoners of Conscience

An interesting item turned up in the JHSSA office not long ago—a 1970's Soviet Prisoner of Conscience bracelet. The bracelets were produced by a number of different organizations concerned about the difficulties faced by Soviet citizens commonly referred to as *refuseniks*: people who wanted to emigrate, but who had been denied permission. They were detained and often imprisoned, which meant their families often became destitute. Jewish organizations in Canada and the United States "adopted" one or more refuseniks, signing petitions and trying to pressure the Soviet government to allow free emigration. The bracelets were each stamped with the name of a refusenik, and sometimes included the person's date of arrest. They were widely sold through Jewish organizations, including youth groups, to publicize the issue. Found with the JHSSA bracelet was a handwritten note, dated June 12, that reads "Mrs. Moore. We took 6 Soviet Jewry bracelets @2.50 each".

The bracelet is stamped with the name of the artist Boris Penson, who had been arrested in June of 1970 with several other men who had planned to steal a plane to escape to Israel. Penson spent nine years in a Soviet prison, and made aliyah in 1979.

Source: JHSSA files; Jewish Telegraphic Agency



Prisoner of Conscience bracelet, 1970's. JHSSA #2889

UPCOMING & IN PROGRESS

ACJS Community Day Update

Planning is well underway for the 2016 Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Annual Conference, which will be held in Calgary from May 29th-31st.

JHSSA is proud to join in the welcome for Canadian Jewish Studies scholars from across the country, who will be with us for Community Day on Sunday, May 29th. Community Day is open to the public and will feature panels on Western Canadian Jewish history and the Montefiore Institute, as well as the launch of Dr. Ira Robinson's latest book, *The History of Antisemitism in Canada* (Wilfred Laurier Press, 2015). Dr. Robinson, Director of the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University, will also give a keynote speech on Antisemitism in Western Canada. Community Day will conclude with a visit to Heritage Park to see the Little Synagogue, and a banquet honouring the 40th anniversary of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies. Tickets for Community Day are \$18 and include the panels, a kosher lunch, and Heritage Park admission. They will be available through the JHSSA office beginning in April. Tickets will also be available for the 40th Anniversary banquet and Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished

Service Award ceremony, details to be announced. Community Day is a unique opportunity to showcase our wonderful community and our fascinating history, and we hope to see you all there!

The conference itself will take place on May 30th and 31st at the University of Calgary. The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. David Bercuson, who will speak about Jewish servicemen and women in the Canadian forces during World War II. After his talk Dr. Bercuson will chair a panel on Canadian Jews and World War II. Please note that conference attendance requires registration through both the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies.

If you have any questions, or if you are interested in sponsoring Community Day, the anniversary banquet, or conference coffee breaks, please contact Sarah Jane (SJ) Kerr-Lapsley at sj.kerr-lapsley@mail.mcgill.ca.

More "All in the Family"

To celebrate Family Day this February, JHSSA will again be setting up our scanner and laptop in the JCC lobby. We're happy to receive material at our office at any time, but taking ourselves downstairs, in addition to raising our community profile, always turns up some wonderful treasures. Now is the time to dig out that document or photo you've been thinking of sharing. Watch our website and JCC notice boards for details.

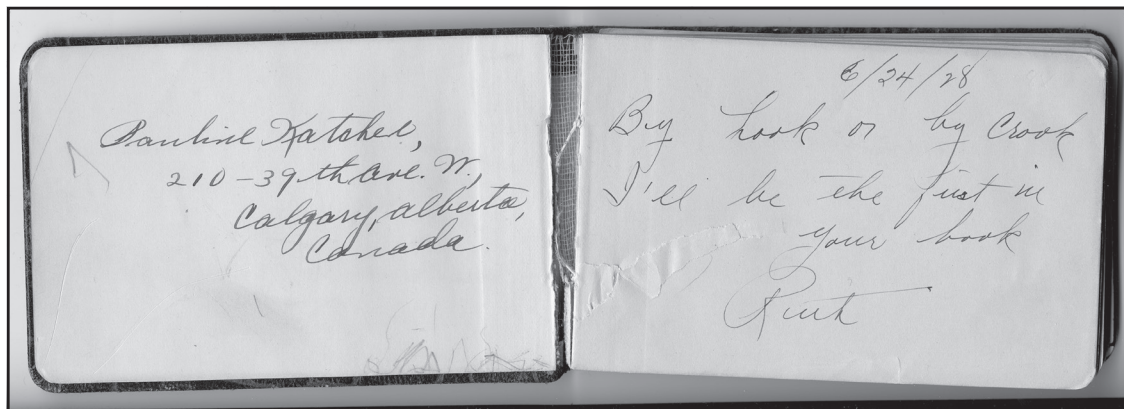
Call for Music Memorabilia

The Jewish communities of southern Alberta have a long history of producing and supporting talented musicians, and JHSSA wants to recognize them! Do you still have the sheet music for the songs that you—or your parents—wrote so many years ago? Photos or scrapbooks from family or community performances of yesteryear? Lyrics that were written for a youth group or community event? Posters, ads, reviews from camp musicals? We have plenty of programmes from more recent events, but would like to expand our collection of memorabilia from the 70s, 60s, 50s and before. Please contact the office at 403-444-3171 or jhssa@shaw.ca if you can make our hearts sing.

New Accessions

We would like to thank Debbie Smolkin for donating her mother-in-law Pauline Katchen's 1928 autograph book to our Archives. Even without knowing the friends and family who signed it, its verses and couplets are wonderfully evocative of time past: "Life is but a dream: so dream sweetly"; "When this you see remember me, the same old kid I used to be"; "In your chain of friendship, May I be a link". We look forward to someday putting some surnames and photographs to the inscriptions, and perhaps opening a window on the summer before "Polly's" 20th birthday.

Moving our archival storage space turned up another item for our Archives: minutes from the Resident's Association for the Jewish Senior's (now Bertha Gold) Apartments. As all researchers know, minutes are a wonderful resource, full of names and dates and concerns-of-the-day, and we are pleased to add them to our collection.



The first pages of Pauline (Polly) Katchen's 1928 autograph book. Acc # 2015-003. Gift of Debbie Smolkin.

Long-Standing Supporters

The Board of Directors of the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta would like to thank all current members for their support. Reviewing our membership documents has led us to compile the following list of "historic" members. While some have been with us since our very beginnings, all are current members who have been stalwarts for 18 years or more. We are very grateful for their continued interest and support, which has allowed us to develop and maintain our holdings and programming. If you were an early member and don't see your name, or if we have an incorrect year for your initial donation, please let us know so we can adjust our records.

1990	Labie & Eleanor Doctor	Mona Joffe	1996
Trudy Cowan	Frank Kettner	Lily Joffe	Judith Dwarkin
Barb Joffe	Chana McKereghan	Bev Katzin-Walker	Michael & Phyllis Moscovich
Robert & Sydney Kalef	Barry & Debby Smolkin	Naomi Kerr	Miriam Sanders
Therese Nagler		Cyril Leonoff	Pat Smolensky
Agi Romer Segal	1995	Mel & Carol Levitt	Rosslyn & Norman Steinberg
	Francis Bondaroff	Eric & Gay Libin	Chevra Kadisha of Calgary
1991/1992	Ted Busheikin	Philip & Harriet Libin	
Harry Sanders	Arlein Chetner	Rose Lister	1997
	Cheryl Cohen	Beulah Martin	Murray Blankstein
1992/93	Bernice Cohen	Les Moss	Jack Chetner
David & Sonia Bickman	Rosalind Corenblum-Citron	Chuck Mozeson	Jared Polsky & Debbie Levy
Emanuel Cohen	Sidney & Bronia Cyngiser	Stuart & Elaine Myron	
Zena & Lorne Drabinsky	Les & Miriam Diamond	Phil & Judy Parker	1998
Jack & Rose Edelson	Delsie Dworkin	Shirley Rabinovitch	Murt & Helene Davis
Sam & Anne Goresht	Lil Faider	Donna Riback	Mel & Deana Fishman
Sheila & Ralph Gurevitch	Ron & Myrna Ghitler	Stuart & Irene Ross	Louise Glin
Noel Hershfield	George & Sondra Goodman	Leah Saltman	Joe & Maureen Katchen
Alvin and Mona Libin Foundation	Stan Guttman	Jerry Schwartz	Allan & Sharon Sattin
Phyllis Rubin	Nelson & Debbie Halpern	Jack & Betty Sharp	Karen Sklar
Shauna Switzer	Zelda Hanson	Morley & Cheryl Shore	Joe & Sondra Spier
	Becky Hapton	Tillie Sklar	Doran Veiner
1994	Lil Hershfield	Stan & Carey Smith	Jack Wise
Anne Brodsky	Gordon & Eva Hoffman	Sam & Ida Switzer	
Mickey Davids			

JHSSA NEWS

January Casino

While we won't know the exact revenue from our Casino until the end of the AGLC's fiscal quarter, we are glad to report it was a smooth and successful event. We would be hard-pressed to maintain our levels of service and programming without this source of funds, and we sincerely thank everyone who volunteered. A particular nod to Betty Sherwood for her unparalleled organizational ability, and to all those who stepped up to fill the evening and late-night count room shifts.

Harry and Martha Cohen Library

Our lending library continues to grow! We have added several books in recent months, including *Cliff-Bungalow-Mission: A Heritage Community*. This volume contains several references to individuals and families from the Jewish community who have lived and worked in those neighbourhoods over the years. Also new to our collection are *A Business History of Alberta* by Henry Klassen, which was a gift of the Klassen family, and the fascinating *Everyday Jewish Life in Imperial Russia*, donated to us by David Bickman. We hope to have a complete list of our library books online someday;

in the meantime, take a moment to come upstairs in the JCC and browse our shelves. Everyone may use our library material on-site, and JHSSA members have borrowing privileges for all circulating items.

Thank You

In addition to everyone who renewed their membership, donated items to our library or archives, sent tribute cards and attended our programs, we thank long-time volunteer Manny Cohen for his generous donation of new-to-us, archivally-suitable shelving, and Eric Bumstead, who has contributed to our various recent physical rearrangements in a number of ways.

We are also grateful to Keren Hakkim and Angela Israel for their assistance with clearing a backlog of Hebrew gravestone inscriptions, which are a vital component of our cemetery files. We have happily added their names to our new list of occasional translators. If you know of anyone who can read and translate languages other than English, especially but not limited to Yiddish and Hebrew, please let the office know.

President's Message

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More than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics. It is a fascinating book that I encourage everyone to read.

Recently, we have received a number of most generous donations from Barb and Ron Krell, the Hanson Family reunion, Janet and Harry Sherman, and an anonymous donor. This support has not only been critical to ensuring the maintenance and enhancement of our services, but has also enabled us to receive matching funds from the Len and Faigel Shapiro Jewish Community Enrichment Grant for the needed expansion to our storage space, and the furnishings and equipment necessary to create an effective and secure space for our collections. We are also very grateful for the ongoing generous funding from Bernard Ghert, and from the Alvin and Mona Libin Foundation. Thank you also to our many members who have made a special donation in honour of our 25th anniversary as part of their membership renewal.

I am very pleased to announce that we received a \$4,800 grant from Veterans Affairs Canada to support development of the Jewish Veterans of Southern Alberta Database. This money will be used to request copies of the military records for Calgary and Southern

Alberta Jewish veterans and to fund Roberta Kerr, our contract researcher, to continue to update the database with new information obtained from these records. The military records for veterans who passed away over 20 years ago are publicly available upon request. Records for living veterans and those who passed away more recently are available only to family members. These records are a valuable source of information and will allow us to more completely fill in entries in our database.

Congratulations to our Archivist and Librarian, Agi Romer Segal, whose article "Dancing into History: A Glimpse into the Jewish Community of Calgary, 1912-1913 (the dance cards of Cecyle Sereth)" was just published in the 2015 issue of the journal *Canadian Jewish Studies*. We are excited about Agi's return from her recent leave and thank Katie and Roberta for so ably covering for Agi. We especially appreciate Roberta's interim service as our archivist and librarian.

Thank you to all our members and supporters for your financial support, your volunteer time, your participation in our programs and your donations of photos, artifacts and documents.

Famous Last Words

Discovery often features a photo or item that we call "A Brush with Fame", recalling an encounter between a member of our community and someone with a notable public profile. Here are some tidbits from our Oral History Collection that fit the criteria.

Lil (Friedman) Weiner came to southern Alberta by way of Russia, Winnipeg and St. Paul, Minnesota. During World War II, one of her brothers, Max, became a correspondent for *The Guardian* in London. His columns led to him being hired as a commentator and speech writer for a young American politician: John F. Kennedy.

Jack Edelson's father Harry financed both baseball and hockey teams in Calgary. One of his hockey teams featured a Russian-born forward named David "Sweeney" Schriener, who went on to a long

and illustrious NHL career, including induction into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

On repatriation after World War II, Val Rimer was travelling aboard the RMS Queen Elizabeth. One of his fellow passengers was [Sir] Winston Churchill, who damaged a tooth on the voyage.

Bertha Segall's first secretarial job was for writer and publisher Bob Edwards at the *Calgary Eye Opener* newspaper. She was later interviewed about that experience by Alberta's one-time Lieutenant Governor, Grant MacEwan.

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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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ISSN: 1916 – 3886

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