



DISCOVERY

The Journal of the

תגלית

# JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 3

FALL 2018

## JHSSA 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 7:30 pm  
in the Calgary JCC auditorium



### ***Ricardo Miranda's Journey: From Nicaraguan Refugee to Alberta Cabinet Minister***

We are very pleased that the Honourable Ricardo Miranda, Alberta's Minister of Culture and Tourism, has kindly accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker at the JHSSA Annual General Meeting. In many ways, the minister's story echoes the story of many of the Jewish community's earlier immigrants. Minister Miranda is a Sephardic Jew who came to Canada in 1988 with his family after fleeing the civil war in Nicaragua. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Calgary and is fluent in five languages. He was a flight attendant for 15 years and also worked as a research representative for the Canadian Union of Public Employees in Alberta. On May 5, 2015, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, representing the diverse northeast neighbourhood of Calgary-Cross, where he grew up. He was appointed Minister of Culture and Tourism on February 2, 2016. We invite the entire community to come hear about his interesting life journey.

Our AGM will also include the presentation of certificates to those in our community who have celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this past year. Please contact the JHSSA office if you have any names to add to our list of 80 year-olds. There will be short business meeting consisting of our president's report, financial report, and the election of a new board of directors. The evening will conclude with refreshments.

## President's Message

By Sandra Lipton



Summer 2018 has been a busy time for JHSSA. In June, we were informed of our successful application to Alberta Historical Resources Foundation (AHRF) for funding towards our *Voices of Experience: Jewish Community of Alberta's Memory Project, Part I*. The goal of this project is to create and transcribe 50 new oral histories. We are pleased that Judy Shapiro will be coordinating this project and are grateful to AHRF for this financial support. This issue of *Discovery* features the programs we have presented throughout the summer and highlights our many upcoming events. I want to extend our thanks to Don Smith, Susan Podlog and Roberta Kerr for their contributions to our successful summer programs.

This summer has also been exciting for our office manager, Katie Baker, who welcomed twins into her family. Mazel Tov Katie and Eric! We thank our interim office manager, Carol Hinatsu, for so capably filling in for Katie, as well as our accomplished archival staff Agi Romer Segal and Roberta Kerr who have also stepped in to fill components of Katie's responsibilities.

As we move into our new membership year, I want to thank all our members for their ongoing support of our society. As an independent self-funding organization, your memberships and

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THIS ISSUE IS SPONSORED IN PART BY B'NAI BRITH LODGE #816



# Community Milestones, 1918 and 1968

## 1918

The year 1918 was bookended with news of marriages within prominent families in the Jewish community. Rabbi Simon Smolensky officiated at the marriage of Emily Sereth, third daughter of lumber merchant and community leader Henry Sereth, to Moe Lieberman of Edmonton on January 1, 1918. On the same day, Bertha Hart was married to Sam Segall at the home of Mr. Jack Bercuson. Bertha is remembered largely for her role as secretary to Bob Edwards of the *Calgary Eye Opener* from 1912 to 1920.



Bertha and Sam Segall. JHSSA #1232

Poet Esther Ethel Shumiatcher met Yiddish writer Peretz Hirshbein when she was asked to present him with flowers on his visit to Calgary in 1918. As with most important literary visitors, Hirshbein was entertained at the Shumiatcher home. Apparently, the writer took ill soon after he departed Calgary for a speaking tour. He returned immediately to Calgary and was nursed slowly back to health at the Shumiatcher home; a romance ensued. The couple was married

by Rabbi Smolensky in December 1918. Their union was especially beneficial for the Calgary community because during their frequent visits home from their many travels abroad they would feature in community cultural programs. They were especially supportive of the I.L. Peretz Institute. *Ershte Trit* (First Steps), the first publication of the I.L. Peretz School in 1930, contains a special dedication by Esther and a personal essay, "My first lesson in writing Yiddish (a gift for the children of the I.L. Peretz School in Calgary)," by Peretz Hirshbein.

The Jewish community focus was on the Calgary Jewish Relief Fund for European War Sufferers, whose 1917 fundraising efforts continued into 1918, and also on the Canadian Zionist Association's Palestine Restoration Fund. The latter's major fundraising drive was launched by the Calgary Zionist Association for the Palestine Restoration Fund in the Allen Theatre in March. According to the *Calgary Daily Herald*, the goal of the campaign was to raise \$3000 "so the Jewish national aspiration of a homeland in Palestine may be realized." Its slogan was "Let no Jew escape; make every Jew do his bit." Local newspapers published an extensive list of the donors who pledged a total of \$927. Further donations were noted in later issues. In May, reports were published about the looting of the general hospital in Jerusalem by Turks who were eventually driven away by British forces; separate appeals were made to help refurbish the hospital. Visiting speakers promoted the Zionist cause throughout the year. Alexander Sachs, director of the Zionist Bureau of Canada, spoke in June, and well known Zionist leader Nahum Sirkin visited in October.

A number of court cases involving individual Jews were featured in the local press. The colourful case of Nate Green, who was charged for his misadventures in the King Edward Hotel, occupied the attention of the press from the initial charges in January of selling liquor illegally, keeping a disorderly house, and of theft of about \$500, until he was finally sentenced, after unsuccessful appeals, in April. King George Hotel owner, Charles Bell, was accused of violating liquor laws based on claims that guests had liquor in their room. He was not charged.

Among the advertisements featured in the 1918 Calgary newspapers are those for Margolis Loan Office, J. Goldberg's Alberta Loan, Calgary Scrap Iron and Metal Co., and Diamond Clothing Co. which was awarded the first prize in the Victory Loan window dressing competition in November 1918. The store's window theme was "Flanders Fields."

Since the national voting registration day in 1918 was set for a Saturday, the *Calgary Daily Herald* reported that arrangements had been made for Jews to register on the previous Thursday or Friday. However, since the change had been made to meet the Jews' requirements, "they will be asked to obtain their own registration booths and to provide the deputy registrars with assistants for that day without pay."

First signs of the Spanish Flu epidemic became evident towards the end of the year with the deaths of brother and sister, Harry Rapaport (died October 19) and Lillian Leah Goldstein (died November 4). In her oral history interview, Bertha Hart Segall recalls how shocked she was to hear about Mrs. Goldstein's sudden death. The Jewish community participated in efforts to deal with the epidemic. The *Albertan* reported on October 16 that H.J. Allen of the Allen Theatre

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## Community Milestones, 1918 and 1968

Continued from Page 2

had offered to organize a squad of cars for use by the Victorian Order of Nurses. Local hotels donated linens. At the end of October, a Jewish emergency kosher kitchen was organized in the Strathcona Block by Mrs. Ben Ginsberg.

The celebrations to mark the November anniversary of the Balfour Declaration were postponed due to the epidemic but did take place a month late, on December 2 at the Allen Theatre, under the chairmanship of Mayor M.C. Costello. Other speakers included R.B. Bennett, Dr. Kerby, J.B. Barron and Ben Ginsberg. The Allen Concert Orchestra played "Hatikvah" in addition to the Allied national anthems. A resolution was issued encouraging His Majesty's Government to further the final consummation of Balfour's declaration in favour of the establishment of a national homeland for the Jews in Palestine at the peace conference that was to follow the armistice.

We know of three servicemen from the Jewish community in southern Alberta who were killed before the armistice on November 11, 1918. Samuel Hackman of Rumsey died at the end of September 1916, Simon Zuidema of Calgary died in April 1917, and Israel Joseph Friedman, a Medicine Hat school teacher, on October 28, 1918, just a few days before the end of the war.

## 1968

The Calgary Jewish community had great success in rallying support for the State of Israel during the crisis of the June 1967 war. Local fundraising exceeded the initial goal of \$150,000 with total donations of \$666,000. To acknowledge this achievement, the Jewish National Fund designated the Jewish Community of Calgary as its 1968 Negev Dinner honouree. The dinner was held at the Beth Israel Synagogue on January 28, 1968, and was chaired by Dr. A.S. Gelfand. The guest speaker was Aryeh Eshel, the newly appointed Israeli ambassador to Canada. There was more celebrating when the community marked Israel's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On May 4, 300 people attended the "Cabaret Nite" at Beth Israel featuring singer Miriam Breitman and local teenagers Sam Hanson and Leslie Sanofsky. Festivities on the following day were chaired by Gordon Signer. Guest speaker Judith Beilin, Israeli consul in New York, addressed the audience of 250 parents, and students of the Jewish schools were awarded prizes for an essay contest. Frances Cyngiser won the first prize for the elementary school level, and Sandra Cramer of Lethbridge won in the teen category. Not to be forgotten in the list of community festivities, in June the National Council of Jewish Women held its annual Angels Ball with the theme of "Fiesta Grande."

The task of the 1968 United Jewish Appeal, chaired by Morris Hector, was to keep up the momentum in donations in order to fund ongoing needs and to address local issues. Although the House of Israel community centre activities committee had developed a wide range of programs, a planning committee chaired by Martin Cohos was established to look ahead at the feasibility of the construction of a new Jewish community centre.

Rabbi Lewis Ginsburg, who was with the Shaarey Tzedec Congregation in 1968, was appointed B'nai Brith Hillel counsellor on the University of Calgary campus. President Beverly Brodsky and her team planned a busy season including a Hootenany, a Friday night service, and a visit to an orphanage.

Rabbi David Barenholtz ended his many years as the community's



Congregation House of Jacob synagogue, 1980. The building at 1212-12 Street SW was purchased in 1968. Source: Dave Spindel. JHSSA #1049

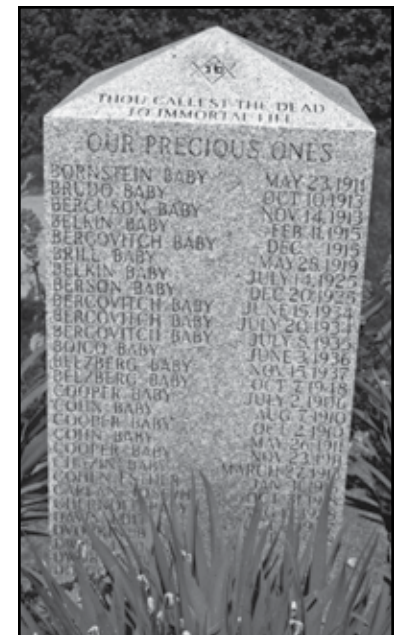
shochet, and a kashrut committee was established by Calgary Jewish Community Council to ensure a continuing supply of kosher meat. In September, Rabbi Abraham Postone was appointed to serve as community shochet.

Jewish Family Service Calgary published a series of articles in the *Calgary Jewish News* throughout the year, highlighting its needs and accomplishments. Especially touching is the description of the resettlement help JFSC was able to offer a Druze immigrant from Israel. The article includes a thank you letter from his relatives in Eilat.

Calgary was the host for the 1968 Western Canada Educational Conference and the Western Regional Conference of the Zionist Organization of Canada in March; the conference was chaired by Lou Faber. Saul Koschitzky, former president of Calgary Jewish Community Council, was elected the new Regional President. Calgary also featured more prominently on the national scene when Robert Sattin was elected national vice-president of the Canadian Association for Labour Israel (Histadrut) in September.

Congregation House of Jacob signed over its property to the City of Calgary in March 1968 to make way for urban renewal, and in September 1968 president Jay Diamond announced the purchase of a building on the corner of 12 Street and 13 Avenue SW to serve as its new synagogue.

With the advent of the High Holidays, on September 29 Chevra Kadisha of Calgary invited the entire community to a mass unveiling of a marker for the 112 babies buried in the Erlton Cemetery. The clergy of all three synagogues officiated.



The Baby Memorial at Erlton Cemetery. Names are etched on all the sides. JHSSA #251.1

# LECTURE

By

## Esther Shumiatcher Hirshbein

At the I. L. Peretz Institute

**Wed., Jan. 3rd, 1945  
at 8.30 p.m.**

on the very interesting topic:

### "The Jewish Woman in Life and Literature"

Esther Shumiatcher Hirshbein is a world-famous Jewish writer, poetess and lecturer of exceptional ability. She is an authority on the subject of this lecture.

We hope that Calgary Jewry will take advantage of this great opportunity to hear one of Jewry's leading daughters.

Come and bring your friends and we promise you a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

**Admission 50c** **I. L. Peretz Institute**

Poster for a 1945 lecture by Esther Shumiatcher at the I.L. Peretz Institute, printed at the Franklin Press. Both Esther and her spouse, Peretz Hirshbein, were often featured in local events when they visited her family here.



# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Jay Joffe Memorial Program



## In partnership with the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival

Sunday, November 11, 2018

For exact screening time, please consult the Jewish Film Festival Brochure

### *GI JEWS: JEWISH AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II*

For a decade, JHSSA has honoured the memory of its founding president, Jay Joffe, with a film that presents Jewish history in an engaging way. In recent years, JHSSA has made a concerted effort to focus on the contributions of local Jewish veterans. This year's Jay Joffe Memorial Program presentation offers a broader view of the experience of Jewish military personnel in World War II.

*GI JEWS: JEWISH AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II* tells the profound and unique story of the 550,000 American Jewish men

and women who served in World War II. Through the eyes of the servicemen and women, the film brings to life the little-known story of Jews in World War II—as active participants in the fight against Hitler, bigotry, and intolerance. *GI JEWS* is directed and produced by Lisa Ades, produced by Amanda Bonavita, and written by Maia Harris.

Jewish Americans fought on two fronts: for America and for Jews worldwide. Like all Americans, they fought against fascism, but they also fought a more personal fight—to save their brethren in Europe. In the midst of it all, they battled anti-Semitism within the ranks of the U.S. military. Speaking on-camera are “the greatest generation” of Jewish Americans, both famous and unknown. With humour and pathos, Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner tell stories of being Jewish in training. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and artist Si Lewen escaped Nazi Germany as teenagers, then returned to their homeland to fight as American soldiers. Ellan Levitsky nursed the wounded after D-Day, and Lt. Lester Tanner was saved by his Protestant commanding officer in a Nazi POW camp.

The film also features the stories of Jewish veterans now deceased, including baseball star Hank Greenberg and writers Norman Mailer, J.D. Salinger, Leon Uris, and Joseph Heller, who transformed their war experiences into powerful literature.

Jewish soldiers were among the first to reach the concentration camps liberated by American troops. Many spoke Yiddish, so they could offer the survivors their first words of solace and comfort. In archival footage, we watch Rabbi Chaplain David Max Eichhorn arrive at Dachau, praise the survivors for their bravery and heroism, and lead them in a moving moment of prayer.

Jewish servicemen and women were changed forever by their military service and their encounter with Hitler's atrocities. Returning home, they continued to fight for the values for which they had risked their lives—religious freedom and civil rights in America.

In the end, the story of the Jewish GIs is the story of becoming American—the story of immigrants who earned their citizenship by shedding blood; they fought for democracy and tolerance abroad and at home.

EVERYONE WHO HAS PAID FOR JHSSA MEMBERSHIP BY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18 WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAW FOR TWO FREE TICKETS TO THIS FILM'S SCREENING



## Calgary JCC Jewish Book Festival

## Joey Jacobson's War: A Jewish Canadian Airman in the Second World War

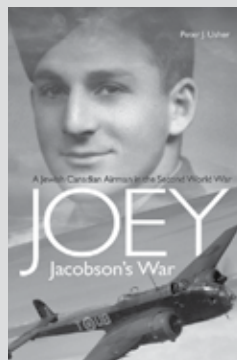
A presentation by author Peter Usher

Wednesday, November 21, 2018, 11:00 am at the Calgary JCC

JHSSA is pleased to partner with the Calgary JCC Jewish Book Festival in hosting author Peter Usher's talk about his recent publication. Usher's work is a labour of love, inspired by the letters and diaries written by his cousin Joey Jacobson during Jacobson's World War II service.

Joey Jacobson's War reflects the experience of the hundreds of highly trained volunteers who were sent by Canada in 1940 to serve in Britain's Royal Air Force, nearly half of whom were killed or captured within a year. But more than that, Joey's diary and letters provide an intimate understanding of his development as a young man and as an airman. His observations are grounded in the Eastern Canadian urban environment in which he was raised, but fundamentally influenced by where he found himself—whether training on the prairies, stationed in England, or actually in combat.

Jacobson's written legacy as a serviceman is impressive in scope and depth; it provides a lively and intimate account of a Jewish Canadian's life in the air and on the ground, written in the intensity of the moment, unfiltered by the memoirist's reflection, revision, or hindsight. Usher provides in-depth background information that helps put the airman's story in its historical context. Accompanying excerpts from Joey's father's diary show the maturing of the relationship between father and son in a dangerous time.



# A Visit to Jewish Sites in Lethbridge

By R. Kerr

On August 23, 2018 I had the opportunity to present a talk on the history of the Jewish community of Lethbridge for the Galt Archives, as part of a series of monthly talks on a range of topics regarding the history of Lethbridge and area. The talks are held in the archives research area and generally attended by under a dozen people, but almost double that number packed the room to learn about the Jewish community.

There were many questions both before and after, and several of the attendees mentioned people or events that added new information to JHSSA's files. New information was also gathered from my trips to two of the Lethbridge buildings that served the spiritual needs of the community—the Magrath House, which the early community rented for over 20 years, and the second Beth-Israel synagogue building, now home to a firm of architects.

The Magrath House, also known as the Conybear Residence, stands at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Fifth Street South. Built in 1891, it was first rented by The Hebrew Congregation of Lethbridge around 1915. Downstairs housed weekly services and the cheder, and the rabbi and his family lived upstairs. While Lethbridge's rabbis came and went, the community continued to rent the house until at least 1928. Its post-shul life included time as a confectionary and grocery store, and many years in a state of increasing disrepair. In 2014 it was restored to its former glory, and now boasts a Lethbridge Heritage Society plaque telling of its history.

The synagogue building on 15 Street South has been described as “modest, minimal, refined and clean-lined”, and commended in design circles for its use of light and juxtaposition of interior materials. It served as the focal point at a time when Jewish activity in Lethbridge was at its peak, but by the early 2000s the community had dwindled to only a handful of families. Maintaining the building became increasingly unrealistic, and eventually the remaining members made the painful decision to put it up for sale.

At this same time, an architecture firm in Lethbridge was looking for a space—but not just any architecture firm. FWBA Architects is the current incarnation of the firm that had envisioned the synagogue back in 1955, and the building's designer, George Watson, had been a mentor to one of the firm's current partners. All of the partners were extremely fond of the space, drawn in particular to its calm and serene energy—but they weren't so fond of the asking price. So they made the congregation an offer of a lower sum, with the inclusion of a ten-year free “lease-back”, whereby the community would maintain open access to—and use of—the chapel and rabbi's office.

The foyer became the reception area. The glass walls of the three classrooms have been maintained, with the space sub-divided to make offices and meeting rooms. The hallways are hung with photos and articles reflecting both the history of the architects, and of the synagogue. The kitchen is smaller, but the cupboards are the same—and there's still a pass-through to the sanctuary area.



Magrath House, the first rented synagogue in Lethbridge.

This is the main workspace, still flooded with natural light, though now divided mostly into cubicles. The shelves at the back that used to hold siddurim are used for files. The rear wall of the bimah still holds the shadow of the wood-cut menorah that used to hang there, now in the chapel.

Members of the organized community still gather in the chapel on occasion. At the time of the sale it was felt that a ten-year agreement would be ample, given the rate at which the community was aging and dwindling. But that term is almost up, and it will be interesting to see what the future will bring.

Roberta Kerr will be presenting her illustrated talk, “The Jewish Community of Lethbridge: a documented history”, as JHSSA's Winter Program at the Calgary JCC on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 1:00 pm.



Beth-Israel Synagogue, 2005. Photographer: Emanuel Cohen. JHSSA #1768. The synagogue building was dedicated on April 22, 1956.



## Past JHSSA Events

### Historic Calgary Week

***A Colourful Life: Morris “Two-Gun” Cohen and the Chinese Community an illustrated talk by Dr. Don Smith***



Prof. Don Smith presented a TV clip of Morris “Two-Gun” Cohen at JHSSA’s Historic Calgary Week event. Photographer: Kirsten Olson.

On Sunday, August 5, 2018, over 80 people crammed into the newly dedicated Alexander Calhoun Salon in the Memorial Park Library to hear Don Smith untangle the tale of the colourful life of Morris “Two-Gun” Cohen. Dr. Smith’s talk was sponsored by JHSSA as part of Historic Calgary Week. As an introduction to the topic, the audience was treated to a clip from a *Front Page Challenge* episode in which Cohen himself was the mystery guest. This was a wonderful way to get a feeling for the man who seemed to play a large part in the legend created about him. Dr. Smith relied heavily on earlier research done by Daniel Levy for his book about Cohen, since apparently earlier publications had taken Cohen’s own version of his life at face value. The fact that Dr. Smith had quite coincidentally encountered both Cohen’s first biographer, Charles Droge, and Cohen’s former brother-in-law added to an already entertaining presentation. The presentation included a short overview of Calgary



A large audience attended the JHSSA 2018 Historic Calgary Week event in the newly dedicated Alexander Calhoun Salon in the Memorial Park Library on August 5, 2018. Photographer: Fung Ling Feimo.

in the early century and of the situation of the Chinese minority in the city. However “colourful” Cohen’s presentation of his life story might have been, Don Smith pointed out that Cohen should be given full credit for his unwavering support of the Chinese community.

### Book Discussion Moderated by Susan Podlog *Double Threat* by Ellin Bessner

The 16 people who gathered on August 21 to discuss Ellin Bessner’s book about Jewish Canadians in the military in WWII were treated to a pleasant surprise. Moderator Susan Podlog opened the evening with a live chat with Bessner in Toronto. The author expressed her passion for the topic and gave the audience some background on how she became so interested in the Jewish military experience. The ensuing discussion was far-reaching and engaging.

Many in the audience had been children during the war and yet acknowledged that, in fact, they had known very little about the actual events and the experiences of their relatives until they



learned the historical facts in later life. The general consensus was that most returning veterans shared little about their experiences and that those who served overseas must have undergone great trauma, yet they were eager to return to normal civilian lives. One participant felt that while much had been documented about the horrors of the war, it would be interesting to have more information on how the lives of young people from the prairies going overseas for the first time and learning about European culture were changed by these experiences. Participants shared stories of forging life-long relationships with servicemen from overseas who were billeted with their families for Jewish holidays, of marching as a cadet in military parades, of hearing the stories of Jewish servicemen having to deal with unfamiliar (and non-kosher) food, and of encountering immigrant Holocaust survivors and recognizing the enormity of the war experience for the first time. One attendee commented that with the insights provided by the participants, the discussion had been a very good learning opportunity. Moderator Susan Podlog expressed her appreciation of the fact that Bessner had also included the experiences of women and those of communist sympathizers during the war.

It was generally agreed that *Double Threat* is an important book not only because it examines the complexities of the Jewish contribution to Canada’s war effort, but also for the variety of individual stories it presents. A copy of the book is available from the JHSSA library.

*Continued on Page 7*

## The Other Harry Cohen

When doing research into our veterans, we’re sometimes surprised by what we find. An idle search of common Jewish names in the Library and Archives Canada WWI database listed 11 men named Harry Cohen. As it turns out, one of them was ranching in Barons, just north of Lethbridge, when he enlisted in 1916.

His service records note that he’d been born in April 1897 in Odessa, to a woman named Fagar. He was 5’5 and 150 lbs, with dental issues “not sufficient to cause rejection”, and no

distinctive marks or scars. He went to France, and between October 1916 and September 1918, was injured on three separate occasions. He spent a total of some three months in various hospitals, but was able to rejoin his unit each time. The medical forms completed at the end of his service describe his shrapnel and gunshot scars, and also note that he had two teeth filled while waiting for his return to Canada. Harry Cohen, late of Barons, landed in Halifax in May 1919; his presumed post-war address was Calgary, but as far as we can tell, he never did come back to this part of the country.

### Past JHSSA Events

*Continued from Page 6*



### 2018 Shem Tov Awards

Calgary Jewish Federation President Yannai Segal, JHSSA recipient Rebecca Aizenman, JHSSA President Sandra Lipton. Rebecca was nominated for her years of service to JHSSA and for her work developing JHSSA programs. Source: Calgary Jewish Federation

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Please make cheques payable to:

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1607 - 90 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2V 4V7

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## Building Calgary Communities Lecture Series

Chinook Country Historical Society (CCHS) and the Calgary Association of Lifelong Learners (CALL) have invited JHSSA to participate in a new series they are launching that will highlight the contribution of the many ethnic groups that comprise our city today. Entitled “Building Calgary Communities,” the series will explore the pioneers that came to Calgary to build a new life while enriching our city with the culture of their homeland. Local historian and JHSSA board member Harry Sanders will offer a presentation later in the season about the pioneers of the Jewish community.

The monthly series will launch at 1:00 pm on October 5, 2018, with a presentation by Michael Hawley entitled “Sikh Pioneers in Calgary.” The events will be held at cSPACE King Edward at 1721 29 Avenue SW. The talk on November 2 will be about the history of Chinatown. Future events will generally be held on the first Friday of each month. Further information is available at <https://calgarylifelonglearners.ca>

## Mistaken Photo Identification



The Winter 2018 issue of *Discovery* featured this postcard which shows an image of a soldier receiving a Distinguished Conduct Medal. We incorrectly identified the central figure as Louis Zuidema. Zuidema did indeed also receive a DCM in 1915, but he is the figure standing behind and slightly to the left of the central figure.



## JHSSA NEWS

### We Get Questions

The JHSSA office answers research inquiries received by phone, email, and through our website. Recently we have fielded questions from local institutions about their own history, from the general public about information on ancestral towns, and from our members requesting translations of Hebrew inscriptions on family documents. It is always gratifying when we are able to help. We recently received feedback from someone who had made use of the links on JHSSA website for genealogical research. The email stated, "I wanted to reach out and let you know how helpful your website has been to me. It's lovely that you've created such a one-stop library on the subject. You've got so many resources here, and it's helped us learn so much about our family."

### Corrections to our Spring Issue

In the President's Message in our previous issue it was stated that the "Parliament of Canada gave royal assent to an act declaring May as Canadian Jewish Heritage Month." Thank you to JHSSA member Arnold Sherman who wrote to inform us that the correct formulation should have been, "The Parliament of Canada's act declaring May as Canadian Jewish Heritage Month was granted royal assent."

Also, Linda Barron kindly informed us that in the article about the April presentation on the Klondike Gold Rush, the sons of Joseph Barron were incorrectly named as John and Abraham; their names were Jacob and Abraham.

### News from our Board

Our congratulations go out to JHSSA board member Jason Nisenson on being elected treasurer of the Archives Society of Alberta and to our past president, Betty Sherwood, on being named CHW Calgary Centre president. JHSSA president, Sandra Lipton's article, "She Also Served: Bringing to Light the Contributions of the Canadian Jewish Servicewomen of World War II" was published in *Canadian Jewish Studies*, Volume XXV, 2017. Sandra has also created a comprehensive bibliography of French philosopher Simone Weil (1909-1943) and will be a presenter at a Weil colloquium at the Open University of Israel at the end of October.

## President's Message

*Continued from Page 1*

donations are critical to our ongoing operations. I want to especially acknowledge the continued support of Calgary B'nai Brith Lodge #816 with their partial sponsorship of this issue of *Discovery* and also the recent generous bequest from the estate of Sruki Switzer<sup>21</sup>.

I am excited to introduce a new funding possibility. Our supporters can now mark a special occasion or honour a loved one through the sponsorship of the JHSSA website for one week for a minimum donation of \$72. Such sponsorships will help us develop our online presence.

Please mark your calendars for our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, October 25, featuring a presentation by the Honourable Ricardo Miranda, our Minister of Culture and Tourism, who is a Sephardic Jew from Nicaragua. Wishing you all the very best for a happy and healthy 5779.

## Photo to Identify



*Sidney Maerov birthday gathering, c. 1936. JHSSA #2984. This photo was sent to us by JHSSA member Lucien Lieberman in response to the 1936 photo of a I.L. Peretz School class that was featured in the Winter 2017 issue of Discovery. The Identified women in the back are Bertha Maerov, first on the left, and Clara Lieberman and Sophie Maerov, fourth and fifth from the left. Phyllis Maerov, the youngest of the children, is in the front centre, immediately in front of Sidney Maerov.*

## Upcoming Book Discussion

The next JHSSA book discussion will be about *The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets, and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis* by David Fishman. It will be held in partnership with Temple B'nai Tikvah and lead by Rabbi Mark Glickman sometime in 2019. The book will be available for purchase at the JCC Jewish Book Festival.

### DISCOVERY

#### Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

Founding President: Jay Joffe<sup>21</sup>

Past Presidents: **Betty Sherwood, Sheldon Smithens, Jack Switzer<sup>21</sup>**

President: **Sandra Lipton**

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