



DISCOVERY

The Journal of the

תגלית

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

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FALL 2020

JHSSA 30th Annual General Meeting

Monday, October 26, 2020 at 7:00 pm
on the screen of your preferred device

**30 Years in 30 Minutes: a fond look back
at 30 years of doing what we do**

In 1989, Jay Joffe gathered a small group of dedicated volunteers and formed the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta. JHSSA incorporated in 1990, and within its first year the foundation for our wonderful organization was already well on its way: the first issue of our journal *Discovery* had been produced and distributed to all local Jewish homes; members of southern Alberta's Jewish communities were eagerly donating documents and photos; an ambitious display was being undertaken, that would take our story throughout our communities and beyond.

We invite you to share with us as we remember the past 30 years, from our earliest meetings to our most recent projects, with the help of several early and founding JHSSA board members and supporters. Please join us as we revisit some of our favourite programs, and take another look at some of our most beloved artifacts and documents.

In addition to this interesting program and the business portion of the meeting, our AGM will honour those members of our community who celebrated their 80th birthday within the past year—as we have done for 30 years, now. In this time of physical distancing, however, our presentations will be done in a different way. If you know of anyone who

should be included, please let the office know before the end of September.

An email will be sent out to our membership with information to RSVP for this highly anticipated event. If you're not currently a member, please contact the office directly.

If you are not a current member you will be unable to attend the live Zoom presentation, but will be able to view the recorded program on our website.

Maxine Fischbein and Agi Romer Segal, l-r, get caught up in the fun at the JHSSA AGM, 2004.



President's Message

By Sandra Lipton



I hope this issue of our journal finds you all safe and healthy. The past six months have been very challenging with the COVID-19 pandemic. I very much appreciate all the work of our staff and the Board in ensuring that we continue to preserve and present the history of our community as we face the consequences of the pandemic. While we have taken advantage of available government funding to support non-profits, we are particularly concerned with future funding for our organization, as the casinos (upon which we rely for about 40 percent of our operational funding) are currently on hold for six months or more. We are especially grateful to JHSSA members Bev and Harvey Silverstone and Ayala Manolson who have recently made significant donations to support our operations. The Silverstone's donation honours long-time supporters of the JHSSA, Mickey and Hy Davids²¹. Ayala's donation is in recognition of the treasures JHSSA is preserving.

Thanks to the foresight of previous JHSSA Boards, we have a rainy-

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PLEASE SUPPORT JHSSA WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Community Milestones: 1920 and 1970

By Agi Romer Segal

1920

The end of hostilities in WWI and the subsequent treaties did not resolve the major issues facing Jewish communities worldwide. In 1920, after the redrawing of borders and the recognition of new nation states, the optimism about the possibility of a Jewish homeland in Palestine led to vigorous Zionist activity in all communities. On the other hand, the evident and continued plight of East European Jews demanded immediate action. Indeed, a *Calgary Daily Herald* article from July 24, 1920 states, "Eleven Jewish Societies Doing Good Work Here", with emphasis on Zionist and relief efforts.

A report by professor Elie Heifetz on the situation in Ukraine highlighted the tragedy of 137,000 Jewish children, orphaned through war and pogroms, who were at risk of starvation. When US laws were deemed not favourable to suggestions of such mass immigration and fostering of the children, Heifetz turned to Canada for help. At a meeting in Montreal in July 1920, the amazing Lillian Freiman was chosen to lead the campaign for the orphans. She promptly approached F.C. Blair, Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Colonization, for permission for the immigration of 1,000 children to be adopted by Jewish families across the country. Blair consented to allow 200 children in good health under the age of 12 with complete prior adoption arrangements. An information meeting was held in Calgary by late August.

Immediately a Rosh Hashanah appeal was approved at a national conference in Ottawa in October when the Jewish War Orphans Committee named Lillian Freiman president and E. Heifetz director. Mrs. A. Meighen, wife of Canada's Prime Minister, agreed to be the honorary president. Mr. H. Isenstein was Calgary's representative to the Committee. Mrs. Freiman undertook a strenuous national tour to organize local committees and to receive adoption applications. Individuals and organizations were also encouraged to contribute \$200 annually per child for the maintenance of the orphans. By the end of October, \$3,500 had been raised in Calgary and an additional \$300 in Rumsey.

Before the end of 1920 nearly \$10,000 had been collected nationally and large donations of clothing were ready to be shipped to the children in Ukraine for immediate use. Fifteen hundred adoption applications had been submitted, many from western Canada. The campaign was also supported by non-Jews. A Calgary chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), led by Sarah Zemans, was formed in September and the entire winter was devoted to sewing and fundraising for this cause.

Despite the exuberant campaign and the positive response, many obstacles hindered the efforts. On the one hand, most of the youngest children had not survived the harsh conditions so many of the orphans were older than six, while most families wanted to adopt younger children. In addition, not all of the applications met the criteria set by the government. In the end, only 149 applications were approved. Mrs. Freiman set out in early 1921 to bring the initial group of orphans herself. The touching story of her personal devotion to this project is told in B. Figler's *Lillian and Archie Freiman Biographies* (1961). It should be noted that both the Lethbridge and the Medicine Hat chapters of Haddassah were named after Lillian Freiman. While it seems that none of the 146 who finally reached Canada in 1921 settled in Calgary, the story

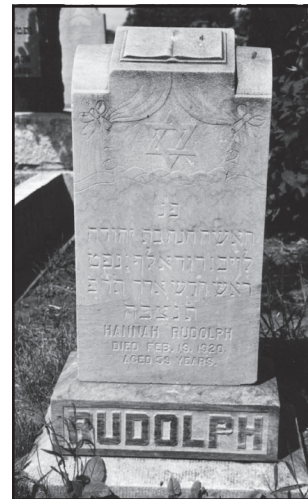
of this campaign is especially interesting in that it foreshadows the well-known history of the efforts to bring post WWII Jewish orphans to Canada fewer than three decades later.

Zionist organizations in Calgary continued their efforts to garner support for Jewish immigration to Palestine throughout 1920. A mass meeting for the Palestine Restoration Fund featuring Rabbi Kahanovich of Winnipeg was held at the Allen Theatre in May. Greetings from Calgary citizens were conveyed by Commissioner A.J. Samis. A special element was the showing of stereopticon slides of the New Palestine.

A major development for the local community was the purchase of a building for the Talmud Torah (Calgary Hebrew School). The fundraising was launched at a meeting led by Ben Ginsberg and Rabbi Smolensky at the House of Jacob in January 1920. The purchase of a building at 210 Sixth Street SE led to the registration of 130 pupils for the following school year and contributed to the rejuvenation of Jewish education in Calgary since the Talmud Torah had been inactive during the war years. The new NCJW chapter held its first reception in the Talmud Torah hall in September. When a Jewish Young Men's Club of Calgary was formed "to make better citizens and loyal Canadians", the young men had use of the hall for the founding meeting in November.



Rosh HaShanah Greetings from Calgary Talmud Torah, Calgary Herald, Sept 21, 1920; note that the Hebrew writing is upside down.



Gravestone of Anne (Hannah) Rudolph.

The threat of the influenza epidemic was not over in 1920. On February 19, Anne Rudolph, 59-year-old wife of Isaac Rudolph of San Francisco, died of influenza in the home of her daughter Mrs. William Gordon whom she was visiting. She is buried in the Erlton cemetery.

Calgary's newspapers often carried reports of petty crimes involving members of the Jewish community. An interesting and unusual case was reported on October 6, 1920. Sam Kredenster, recently arrived from the USA, was accused of a hold-up at the Sunalta Grocery store of his former employer, Norman Libin. Sam was arrested a short while later after Mr.

Libin drove to the police station and then down the street to identify the suspect, who still had the gun, which had earlier been stolen from Mr. Libin, in his pocket. Kredenster did not deny the charges and even claimed that he had been part of an earlier hold-up at the Regent Theatre. Before his capture the suspect managed to use part of the \$50 loot to repay a debt at a fruit store. Police discounted his claim regarding the theatre robbery and named him "a clumsy excuse for a gun man" and reporters called him an "unlikely criminal." He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

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Community Milestones: 1920 and 1970

Continued from Page 2

1970

The first communal event of 1970 was the JNF Negev dinner honoring Saul Koschitzky. The Israel Koschitzky family arrived in Calgary in 1949, a year following their immigration to Canada. Saul left town for his university education, but returned to take an active role in many Jewish local and national organizations, ultimately serving as president of Calgary Jewish Community Council (CJCC) prior to his move to Toronto in the late 1960s. The Koschitzky family retained a business interest in Calgary and provided continuing support for local institutions, especially Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel (HOJMI) and Akiva Academy.



Saul Koschitzky, 1966

By 1969, land had been purchased on 90 Avenue for a Jewish community centre and the role of 1970 CJCC president Alvin Libin and UJA campaign chairman Walter Barron was to help bring the project closer to fruition. The UJA goal for the year was to match the record-breaking intake of the 1967 campaign. After Maurice Paperny was elected CJCC president in June, changes were implemented to expand CJCC. According to *Calgary Jewish News*, this was "to achieve a wider cross section of Jewish communal activity." With the security situation deteriorating in Israel, it was clear that the UJA campaign would need to be intensified and a mass rally on behalf of Israel was held in September to inform the public about the situation.

In the meantime, the old House of Israel community building on 18 Avenue SE continued to serve mostly for adult programming, while other activities were held at Renfrew Boys Club, Bishop Grandin High School and the Killarney Pool. Programming was coordinated by Jack Century and formal community centre policies were developed by May 1970. One sign of the times was a program titled "Youth and Drugs." Community activism was also part of the youth activities. In November, the Teen and Young Adult Planning Committee developed a plan that was presented by Mark Brager on behalf of the Young Judeans to hold a community rally for Soviet Jewry. After much planning the rally took place the following January, and Calgary's involvement on behalf of Soviet Jews was launched.

Calgary Hebrew School's population had grown to 400 students by 1970. Three expansions to the 1959 school building had already been undertaken and in 1970 CJCC approved a new expansion campaign of \$250,000 headed by Morris Hector. The main features of the project were a modern gymnasium and the upgrade of facilities, which were to be completed by September. During the expansion work, the Religious Affairs Committee of CJCC, led by Barney Gelfand, finalized arrangements with Calgary Hebrew School for the establishment of a community *mikvah* (ritual bath) in the school building at a cost of about \$9,000. It was officially opened in 1971.

The I. L. Peretz School's main event of 1970 was its Gentlemen's Dinner, chaired by Mickey Sander and featuring George Jessel at the Palliser Hotel in March. Three hundred men attended, at \$100-a-plate,

to hear an "excruciatingly funny" Jessel, "A Man for all Dinners" as John Hopkins of the *Calgary Herald* called him. During his Calgary visit, Jessel also addressed the Peretz School students and the UJA Women's Division Top Gifts Luncheon.

A Jewish Students Association was firmly established at the University of Calgary and carried out a busy program including a talk by graduate student Hakim Faris on "The Arab Viewpoint in the Middle East."

NCJW celebrated 50 years in Calgary in September with a dinner featuring its choir held at the Beth Israel. By 1970, there were four local NCJW chapters: Mozah Zemans (named to honour long serving NCJW president and the daughter-in-law of Sarah Zemans, the first chapter president), Bertha Segall, Eunice Bloom and Sicha. The organization held its 10th Angel's Ball, postponed from the usual June date to the end of October, with the theme of "A Ball for all Seasons."

Hadassah-WIZO's Youth Aliyah's fundraising event was held on November 17 at the Allied Arts Centre. "Shlep Ahoy" featured 69 local



Pictured at the dedication of the Calgary plaque at the Jerusalem ORT school: Risha Joffe, Henry Libin, Rabbi Lewis Ginsburg, Mrs. Henry Libin, Judy Shapiro, Terry Signer, George Fixler. Source: Calgary Jewish News

talents in an entertaining program, much of it original. A special dress rehearsal was made available for a youth audience for \$1 admission.

Rabbi Lewis Ginsburg was given a special honour in 1970. He was named a delegate representing Canada at the ORT Conference in Switzerland. A reception in his honour was held at the Shaarey Tzedec in October before his departure. Rabbi Ginsburg had been instrumental in raising funds for ORT for years through the Miles for Millions campaign. He was on the board of the Calgary and District International Development Society (CDIDS) which contributed to ORT. Ginsburg was able to see the fruits of his labour, which resulted in a gift of nearly \$60,000, when he travelled to Israel in November after the ORT conference to unveil a plaque on behalf of ORT Calgary, at an ORT school in Jerusalem. A number of Calgarians were on hand for the ceremony, including Risha Joffe, Harry and Mrs. Libin, Judy Shapiro, Terry Signer and George Fixler.

Were you involved in any of the local events and activities of 1970? JHSSA would love to receive recollections, documents or photos from this era. Please contact our office at jhssa@shaw.ca

Attack on All Fronts: The war effort at home

By Betty Sherwood

By the time Canada declared war on Germany on September 10, 1939, various individuals and organizations within the country had already begun to take action. During the first week of August, a meeting was held in Calgary of the Western Division of the Canadian Jewish Congress. For three days, 500 attendees concerned themselves with problems related to the settlement of Jewish refugees in Canada and the spread of Fascism and Nazism, as well as with measures to combat the spread of antisemitism. Immediately after war was declared, representatives of Jewish communities from across Canada met in Montreal and established a War Efforts Committee. In practical terms, its mandate would be to concern itself with enlistment, civilian assistance to the Armed Forces, assistance to Jewish military personnel and their families, and assistance to Canada's national war effort programs.

It has been my pleasure to look back and research the many ways in which our southern Alberta Jewish communities played a part in fighting the war on the home front, by helping to fulfill the mandate of the War Efforts Committee. Unfortunately, few individuals have shared home front memories in their oral histories, and few institutions and organizations have left detailed records or minutes to the JHSSA. So, for instance, there are general comments in *A Joyful Harvest* that ORT and Pioneer Women, as well as other groups, supported many local and overseas efforts, but we do not have any details. By far, the most extensive details are in the 1940s minutes of B'nai Brith Lodge #816.

All in all, we do have wonderful stories and anecdotes to share. I hope to present many of them in a JHSSA zoom program, planned for mid-November. Among other things, I have learned about the individuals



and organizations that sold War Savings Stamps, Certificates and Victory Bonds. These garnered commissions which were often passed along to other wartime charities or community institutions. Cash, clothing and shoes were donated and shipped overseas for victims of the war's devastation, as well as for settlers in Palestine. Groups met weekly to sew and knit, while even teenaged boys were taught to knit at school as materials for "shop" classes became scarce. All sorts of ingenious fundraising smokers, teas, dances and raffles, as well as concerts and lectures were held. Those joining the military were given unique departing gifts and when overseas, often received packages containing fudge, cigarettes, socks and other reminders of home, prepared and assembled in Alberta. Books and magazines were collected by the thousands, and were enjoyed overseas and at military recreation halls and lounges which were furnished in part or completely by donations of furniture and cash from Jewish groups.

Since Jewish military personnel from all over the world were trained or stationed in Alberta, much was done to host them for the Sabbath and holidays. Many decades-long friendships were created from these close associations between local families and these young soldiers and airmen. Arrangements were made so that they could attend synagogue services and meet other young Jews. Sadly, funerals were organized by the community for Jewish personnel killed locally in training accidents.

A few hints exist in our files that Jewish brethren trapped in Europe or trying to flee sought help from relatives here. There are also several post-war requests for assistance. Since we have no record of how these stories turned out, we would appreciate hearing from anyone with knowledge of these cases.

We are planning to offer a presentation detailing the local war effort on the Home Front in November. Please ... answer our call. If you have family or organizational stories, documents or pictures to share, kindly let us know. We would love to include them in our upcoming presentation.

Photo to Identify



All we know about this turn-of-the-20th-century photo is that it was taken by "Anderson of Denver". Please contact the office if you can help us identify this best-dressed family.

From our Oral History Collection: Harriett Weitzer Ratner



Harriett Weitzer Ratner

Recently, JHSSA received a wonderful gift from Mel Comisarow, in Vancouver. He shared with us an interview he conducted with his aunt, Harriett Ratner, who was born in Calgary in 1919. Harriett was a remarkable woman, with connections to many of the founding families of southern Alberta's Jewish communities, and the full details of her life couldn't be done justice in these short pages. With Remembrance Day on the horizon, however, we are proud to share one fascinating section of the interview, rewritten for publication by the archives. We thank Mel

for donating Harriett's story to JHSSA.

Harriett Ratner was born in Calgary to David and Flora Eva Weitzer, nee Levine, in December 1919. Her great-aunt Hilda, her mother's aunt, had come to Calgary before World War I, and had met a nice Jewish boy. So she wrote home, to Berlin, and told her three sisters that there were Jewish men here and they should come. The sisters and their mother travelled in some degree of style, and when they arrived in Calgary discovered that while there was, in fact, a reasonable ratio of eligible Jewish men, Calgary itself was nothing like the great European city they had left. Unfortunately for the women, by the time they decided they'd rather return home, World War I had broken out, and they had no choice but to remain. They all married into homesteading families in the Trochu/Rowley area—Julia and Hilda into the Jacobson family and Lena to the Hackman's. Flora, generally known as Eva, married David Weitzer.

Eva and David soon had two daughters, Ruby and Harriett, but sadly, David died in 1921, when Harriett was just two years old. Although there was pressure to send the girls to the Jewish Orphanage in Winnipeg, Eva's dressmaking skills—and sheer determination—enabled her to stay in Calgary and raise the girls on her own. Things weren't always easy for the family, with the long hours that Flora worked, and Harriett remembered feeling like an outsider within the Jewish community. In part this was due to being from Western Europe where most of the community was from the east, or from Russia; in part it seemed that some families didn't want to be friendly because of her mother's 'status' as a widowed dressmaker. The girls attended public school during the day, and Talmud Torah afterschool classes; Harriett did remember one family who lived across the street from them, the Watermans, who had daughters around the ages of Harriett and her sister. After high school Harriett took a commercial course, but was unable to find any work besides washing dishes.

In 1935, Harriett's sister Ruby went into nurse's training with her cousin Annie Hackman, in San Francisco, where two of her mother's sisters had moved. Harriett followed in 1938, with Annie's sister Revela. After graduating in 1941, Harriett was told that she was ineligible for the army because she wore glasses and she took a job at Mount Zion Hospital, where she had trained. A year later the army contacted her again and said that she could enlist but would not be sent overseas. Her first posting was at a training base not far from Las Vegas, where

she stayed for about a year. After that she was sent to a regular army hospital near Los Angeles, again for about a year, and developed an understanding of "central supply", which was concerned with the oversight of medical supplies and equipment. This understanding turned into a specialization that she used when she was sent to England in 1943, and then to France in 1944, to help set up a field hospital.

The Battle of Paris was going on, and Harriett and the other nurses—perhaps as many as 40—were isolated in a building in the city for almost two weeks before they were able to safely leave. Her first posting in France was in a tent hospital, after which she was transferred to a regular army hospital in Marseilles, where she remained until the end of the war. Harriett remembers that after the hostilities ended, she and some other nurses took what rations they could to the refugee camps that had been set up on the outskirts of the city, to house survivors of the concentration camps—many of whom looked, to her, as if there was nothing there.

Following her discharge and return to the United States, Harriett resumed contact with one of the few other Jewish nurses she had known: Leah Waterman, one of the Waterman girls who had lived across the street from the Weitzer's in the early days. Leah had become a dietician, and also served in the American military. Leah's family had moved to Vancouver, as had Harriett's aunt Hilda, and it was on a visit there that Harriett met Leon Ratner, whom she married in 1948.

Harriett Weitzer Ratner died in June, 2013, leaving four children, seven grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Southern Alberta Jewish Veterans of World War I & II Database Update

JHSSA continues to collect information for our Southern Alberta Jewish Veterans of World War I & II Database, both to add previously unincluded individuals, and to expand the existing records. We were very grateful to receive a generous donation from the Ghert Family Foundation, in support of the ongoing database development.

After this year's AGM and fall program, we will again be able to focus our time and attention on our veterans. Details gleaned from military records previously received from Library and Archives Canada will be added to the database, along with information regarding service like Harriet Weitzer Ratner's. In addition, further research will be done regarding veterans like Harold Ratson, who was originally from Flin Flon, Manitoba, but lived in Calgary for many years with his British war bride, Ruth.

If you know of a veteran missing from our records, have corrections to information currently in the database, or have further information regarding any of our veterans, please contact the office.

An interesting side note to any researchers among our readership: a ripple from the COVID-19 outbreak was the temporary suspension of Library and Archives Canada's research services. While some services have since been resumed, as of this writing LAC is still not accepting any non-urgent records requests.

JHSSA NEWS

Website

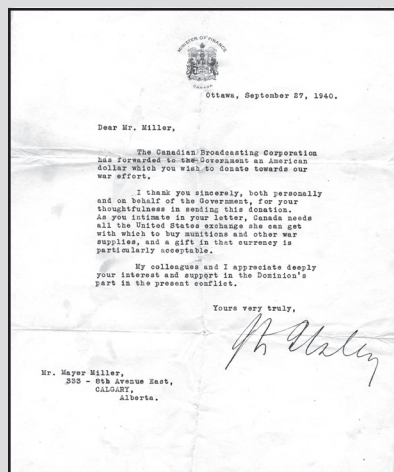
A generous grant from Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary has enabled us to undertake a significant revamp of our website, jhssa.org. We hope you'll spend some time exploring the new design and layout. We've added up-to-date information on using our resources, and we're confident you'll find the site easy to navigate. Best of all, its many features are now compatible with portable devices like your smart phone. Many thanks to all those who provided input.

Office hours

At the time of this writing, access to the Calgary JCC is still restricted, which means access to our office is, too. If you need or want to reach a live person, call the office on Tuesday or Thursday mornings, between 10 am and noon. Phone and email messages can of course be left at any time. We continue to make every effort to respond as promptly as possible. If you were hoping to come in to the office for research purposes, appointments can potentially be arranged for Monday through Thursday mornings. Please contact the office well in advance. Membership renewal forms (in envelopes) and other small items can be left for us downstairs at the JCC sign-in/health check table, and we can also make arrangements for the donation of material. Again, please contact the office for details or more information. We thank everyone for their patience as we establish new working routines.

Upcoming Events

JHSSA is pleased to announce that Betty Sherwood will give a presentation in November, based on her research into Home Front war efforts in the local Jewish community. Aligning with Remembrance Day, the program is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17 at 7:30 pm, via Zoom. "Attack on All Fronts: the war effort at home" is open to the entire community, and a recording will be posted to the JHSSA website after the event. Registration information will be sent out in a membership email closer to the date. If you are not currently a member, please contact the office directly, after November 1.



The federal government gratefully acknowledges a monetary donation from Mayer Miller, Sept 1940

Donating Material to JHSSA

One of the side benefits to our extended shutdown has been that many of us have had time to sort through and reorganize our homes and storage spaces. Now, however, we face the next step in that process: what to do with the items we no longer need or want. Much of that material will of course find new homes through thrift or consignment stores, but JHSSA has received a number of inquiries regarding the donation of archival and historical items with a connection to our community. We trust the following information will be helpful in understanding both how to donate material—and what material to donate—to the JHSSA archives.

Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta accepts donations of archival material that are relevant to the history and development of the Jewish communities of southern Alberta. This includes the personal records of Jewish individuals and families who live—or have lived—south of Red Deer, as well as any Jewish organizations and businesses in the area.

These records include correspondence, photographs, diaries and journals; meeting minutes, membership lists, policy manuals, program publicity; legal agreements, product samples, brochures and flyers; in short, any records that would likely help a random future researcher to understand the life or function of the individual, organization or business. This understanding is also facilitated by any factual information that you can provide at the time of donation, such as—for individuals, for example—dates and places of birth, marriage, immigration, etc., and the identification of individuals in photographs. A family tree prepared by the donor, whether simply sketched out or full of detail, can also be very helpful.

The important things to keep in mind are that archives are primarily interested in the original documents, and also that we prefer to receive them in their original order. This means that there is generally no need to weed or otherwise 'cull' the material, unless you have personal reasons for doing so. The reason for this is that archival work is very contextual, and items that may seem irrelevant to you, often in fact provide interesting side information, especially with regard to personal papers. An example of this might be items that speak to an individual's involvement in pastimes or hobbies.

It is also important to remember that once material is donated to an archives, it belongs to the archives, who will describe and house the material in accordance with Canadian archival standards.

If you would like to donate personal papers, organizational records, scrapbooks, photographs, or other material that reflects the history of the Jewish communities of southern Alberta, whether a single item or a boxful, contact us at 403-444-3171, or at jhssa@shaw.ca.

If you are involved with a Jewish organization and have questions regarding the accumulation and storage of that organization's own archival material, please consult the factsheet on our website (linked through the 'Donate Material to the Archives' page), or contact our office.



JHSSA Programming Goes Zoom

JHSSA's first-ever Zoom program, *Farmers, Peddlers, Philanthropists and More: the Jewish Experience in Southern Alberta*, was an unqualified success! An estimated 100 viewers logged in from over 70 sites, and we were most excited to realize one definite benefit of the shift to digital presentation: we were joined by almost a dozen supporters from outside Calgary, who have never before been able to attend an event.

Narrator Judy Shapiro, with the help of four wonderful readers (Zena Drabinsky, Laurence Elman, Tracy Smith, and Gary Silberg), treated the virtual audience to close to an hour of funny, zany and touching stories, from the 50 oral histories that were recently gathered through JHSSA's The Voices of Experience Oral History project.

If you weren't able to join the live program, or just want to see it again, visit our website (jhssa.org) and click on 'Videos' in the Publications dropdown menu. *Farmers, Peddlers ...* has so far been viewed this way over 50 times!

The Voices of Experience Oral History project was made possible by a grant from the Alberta Government through the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, and these new oral histories are now part of the Historical Society's collection of over 250 interviews.



**Farmers,
Peddlers,
Philanthropists and More:**
The Jewish Experience in Southern Alberta

"From the By Gone Days"

The following item was first published in *Discovery* Edition 3, Vol 1, Winter 1992. We agree with the JHSSA supporter who contacted us, suggesting it was worth sharing again. (The best bit is near the end ...)

Membership Renewal 2020

The current mandated restrictions on public gatherings present some unique challenges for this year's Annual General Meeting. For starters, only members in good standing will be able to register for the Zoom meeting. (A reminder that the program itself, "30 Years in 30 Minutes", will be recorded and subsequently posted on our website for all to enjoy.) And for the first time ever, we will not have the opportunity to meet and greet our returning members, and welcome our new ones, at our AGM membership table.

In anticipation of this, we want you to know that there are a number of ways you can become a member—or renew your membership—in advance of the meeting. Please visit our website and click on Membership under the Support tab, for detailed information. We can also be reached at 403-444-3171 with any questions. We are always happy to hear from you.

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Please make cheques payable to:

Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

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

Membership payable by credit card through our office or through www.jhssa.org

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____ ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Email: _____

JHSSA membership year is from September to August

Do not send cash through the mail

From the By Gone Days

Recently Mrs. Phyllis Rubin, daughter of Charles Waterman, made available some of her father's files collected over the years when he was President of the Talmud Torah. In these papers was a file folder entitled *From the By Gone Days 1925-1950—Notes of a former teacher in the Calgary Talmud Torah*, by Jacob Moshe Freidman. Included in this file was this vignette:

"The best speech, I ever heard, was on the eve of Yom Kippur, after Kol Nidre, when Moshe-Morris Groberman standing in front of the Aron Kodesh-Holy Ark to make an Appeal, said: "Friends, we all know that Money is badly needed to finish the building of the Community Center, especially, for the sake of our Talmud Torah, our children, being still in the basement. We also know that I am a Speaker like Moshe Rabenu.... Now, have your choice: Call out your Pledges, or I will deliver a Speech, first." At once, the Worshipers began to call out their pledges. The Appeal was a success." We are indeed indebted to Mr. Freidman for preserving this story.



The dedicated original JHSSA Board of Directors, c1990. (standing) l-r Mel Nagler, Henry Gutman, Jay Joffe, Agi Romer Segal, Riki Heilik; (seated) Tzvi Anosh, Trudy Cowan.

Membership Corrections

Apologies to the following members, who were inadvertently left off the list in our previous issue.

Sustainers: Phil & Harriet Libin

Members: Stuart & Irene Ross; Karen Sklar; Al Stein

President's Message

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day fund that we are able to use to help weather the current COVID financial storm. Please consider leaving a legacy gift so that we can create an endowment that will help sustain the JHSSA into the future and ensure that our history is preserved for the generations to come. We also hope that our membership will consider increasing their level of annual support, and that those of you who are not yet members will support our endeavours with membership and/or donations.

Our May programme featuring stories from our recently collected oral histories transitioned smoothly into a most successful Zoom program thanks to Judy Shapiro, Laura Shuler and our volunteer readers (Zena Drabinsky, Laurence Elman, Gary Silberg and Tracy Smith), and our office staff. While the pandemic forced the closure of our office for a number of months, we continued to respond to inquiries via email and phone. Social distancing protocols have required us to ramp up our digital presence. We have included articles from *Discovery* in issues of *Alberta Jewish News* and have introduced an occasional e-newsletter for members. Please note that due to budgetary stress, without sponsorship, this fall issue will be the only issue of *Discovery* to be published in print until next fall.

With our online presence so important during the current pandemic, we have recently completed a major overhaul of our website, jhssa.org. This redesigned website allows us to better feature our many resources, including the detailed descriptions of our archival collections and the listing of our collected oral histories. We are so grateful to Katie Baker, our Office Manager/Program Coordinator for all her work in spearheading the web redesign project.

As we mark our 30th anniversary, I hope that you will support the JHSSA with membership, and join us at our Zoom AGM on October 26. Our AGM will feature a special program highlighting our accomplishments and paying tribute to our founders.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Thank You to our LIFE & LEGACY™ Donors

We are pleased to announce that JHSSA has met our initial goal, and received a corresponding grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. We are already on our way to this year's goal of 18 new legacy donors.

Help ensure the future of the JHSSA with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy. Contact our office at jhssa@shaw.ca, 403-444-3171, or through jhssa.org.

Anonymous (3)

Alice^{z1} & Jacob (Jack) Adler

Dan Balaban & Family

Michael Balaban

Marni Besser

Val & Lou Bracey

Milt & Maxine Fischbein

Annette Hanson

Candice Hanson

Dorothy Hanson &

Sheldon Shagal

Lucille Hanson^{z1}

Betsy Jameson

Barbara Joffe

Birgit Krausch

Ron & Barb Krell

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Saundra & Harold Lipton

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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.

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.

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