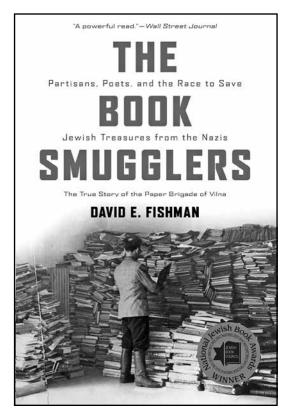


VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1

JHSSA Spring Program: Book Discussion with Rabbi Mark Glickman

The Book Smugglers by David E. Fishman Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 2:00 pm at the Calgary JCC

JHSSA's spring program will be held in partnership with Temple B'nai Tikvah. Rabbi Mark Glickman will moderate a discussion about David Fishman's *The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets, and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis* (2017). This work tells the story of the resistance by the Paper Brigade, a group of heroic residents of the Vilna ghetto, to the Nazi order to seize or destroy a wealth of Jewish books. Fishman's book, which won a National Jewish Book Award, details the valiant efforts to save as many books as possible by hiding works on their body, burying them and smuggling out of the city. He also describes the lives of the people involved, many of whom were major cultural figures in Vilna. Rabbi Glickman is well suited to lead this discussion. He is the author of *Stolen Words; The Nazi Plunder of Jewish Books* (2016).



President's Message

By Saundra Lipton

The JHSSA's 28th annual general meeting was a great success with the excellent presentation by the Minister Ricardo Miranda. I certainly appreciate Laura Shuler chairing the evening in my absence. I am pleased to welcome back our continuing board members who will be joined by our new director



Alan Silver in providing stewardship for our organization.

This past November we hosted two successful programs: The Jay Joffe Memorial Program in partnership with the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival and Peter Usher's presentation on his book *Joey Jacobson's War*, which we sponsored as part of the Calgary JCC Jewish Book Festival.

Our first program of 2019 was a fascinating lecture on the history of the Lethbridge Jewish community by our archival consultant Roberta Kerr. Roberta had previously presented this lecture as an invited speaker at the Galt Museum and Archives. A number of the former Lethbridge residents in our audience fondly recalled their life in that Jewish community.

We thank the Government of Alberta through the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation for a grant towards oral history collection and transcription. We acknowledge the significant work of Judy Shapiro in spearheading our Voices of Experience project and

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COMPLIMENTARY COPY. PLEASE SUPPORT JHSSA WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

Archives Backlog Project Update: Archival Collections

By R. Kerr

Our ongoing multi-year grant from the Government of Canada's Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP) has enabled us to continue our work on the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta Archives Backlog Project.

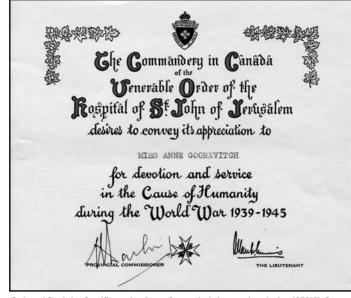
As previously discussed in these pages, this project is focused on formally organizing and processing the documents and items that have been donated to the Jay & Barbara Joffe Archives of JHSSA over the years, according to the Rules for Archival Description (RAD); the Canadian standards established by the Canadian Council of Archives/National Archives of Canada [now Library and Archives Canada].

We have now completed the processing and description of 45 organizational fonds (see list below), including all the steps discussed in *Discovery Winter 2018*.

In addition to these fonds, work has begun on the establishment of subject-specific "collections", a term which in an archival context has a distinct meaning. In archival terms, a "collection" is a group of <u>material collected on purpose</u> by a business/organization, or by a family/individual, that they may have had nothing to do with besides their interest in the subject represented. This is different from a "fonds", which is a group of <u>material generated by the dayto-day activities</u> of a business/organization, or by a family/individual. Collections and fonds alike can be associated with both businesses/organizations and families/individuals. What matters is how the material accumulated, not who did the accumulating.

Most memory institutions—whether archives, museums, historical societies, or grandparents' spare rooms—find themselves with

New to our Archives



Order of St. John Certificate for Anne Goorevitch for service during WW II. Source: Faye and Karen Belzberg.

material that they don't know quite what to do with. Someone asks, "Why are we keeping this?" The answer is, "Because it's cool." As with other aspects of archival practice, individual archives will have different ways of dealing with these items.

JHSSA has a fair amount of material like this, objects and documents that are not associated specifically with an organization or family but that are too interesting to let languish. The home-made Star of David neckerchief, which came to JHSSA via an unknown donor, is a perfect example of this. It is triangular in shape; 116cm x 58cm; light blue cotton with a white cloth border; and a *magen david* appliqued at the triangle's point. We know nothing definite about its provenance or use, although not-dissimilar neckerchiefs and scarves appear in photographs of some of the early Zionist youth groups.

One possible way to deal with the neckerchief would be to write a description of it as a stand-alone object, then wrap it in acidfree tissue paper and house it appropriately with other textiles. It would appear on an item list of miscellaneous objects—a list that, it would be hoped, future researchers would remember to check. But it should be noted that, according to standard archival practice regarding "Related Records" notes, there would not be a reference to it within any other description because its relationship to any particular group or person can only be presumed.

But the presumption that such a neckerchief was, in fact, made and/or worn in association with some sort of Zionist activity is a reasonable one. And if, with that mind, the neckerchief were instead made part of a JHSSA Zionism collection, its description would appear within the context of Zionism in Calgary as a whole, increasing the odds of future researchers becoming aware of it. The "administrative history" written for the Zionism collection is in fact a brief synopsis of the movement's expression in Calgary; the "Related Records" note directs researchers to the records of over a dozen specific Zionist organizations (among them, the Calgary Zionist Association [Agudas Zion], Calgary Zionist Council, Calgary Zionist Federation, and Calgary Zionist Organization), as well as the Calgary Jewish Federation and Calgary Jewish Centre fonds.

We look forward to posting our full archival descriptions in the future. Until then, just contact or drop by the office and we'll be pleased to share them with you.

Continued on Page 3



Neckerchief, probably from a Zionist youth group.

Archives Backlog

Continued from Page 2

Organizational fonds completed as of March 2019: Bertha Gold Jewish Seniors Residence, Beth Israel Congregation, Beth Tzedec Congregation, B'nai Brith Calgary Lodge No 816, B'nai Brith Women, Calgary BBYO, Calgary Hadassah-WIZO, Calgary JCC, Calgary Jewish Academy (including the Calgary Hebrew School/Talmud Torah), Calgary Jewish Family Loan Association, Calgary Jewish Federation, Calgary Jewish Welfare Fund, Calgary Young Judaea, Calgary Zionist Association, Calgary Zionist Council, Calgary Zionist Federation, Camp BB-Riback, Chabad-Lubavitch of Alberta, Chevra Kadisha of Calgary, Chi Omega Chi Sorority, Congregation House of Jacob, Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh (including Akiva Academy), Emuna Sorority, Hillel Calgary, Histadrut, House of Israel, I.L. Peretz Institute (including the Peretz School), Jewish Family Service Calgary, Jewish Genealogical Society of Southern Alberta, Jewish National Fund Calgary, Jewish War Veterans Calgary Post #2, Ki Lo Na'eh Sorority, Lethbridge Jewish Community, Meadowlark Athletic Association [Meadowlark Curling Club], Medicine Hat Jewish Community, Mem Zadick Gimmel Sorority, Mizrachi Women Calgary, Na'amat Canada-Calgary, National Council of Jewish Women, Shaarey Tzedec Congregation, Sharon Zionist Club of Calgary, State of Israel Bonds, Temple B'nai Tikvah, The Calgary Zionist Organization, and The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society.

Subject-specific collections completed as of March 2019: Zionism, Performing Arts

 "This project has been made possible [in part] by the Government of Canada."

« Ce projet a été rendu possible [en partie] grâce au gouvernement du Canada. »

Glenbow Archives Moving to the University of Calgary

Over the next two years the Glenbow Archive collections will be relocated to the University of Calgary to the new Glenbow Western Research Centre. The Centre will be located in the Taylor Family Digital Library and staffed by experts from the University of Calgary's Libraries and Cultural Resources and some additional specialized staff as required. The University will also ensure that the Glenbow materials benefit from the same high standard of conservation and preservation that are in place for its own collections. The relocation process will commence in January 2019 with the goal of opening the new location in the fall of 2019. In order to ensure clear access to materials, details on the relocation will be available at ucalgary. ca/glenbow. The intention of the University is to increase access to the collections.

The Glenbow Archives collection is a phenomenal source of primary material on the history of Jews in southern Alberta. It contains archival collections for many Jewish institutions and organizations including Jewish Community Council, Jewish Family Services, Jewish Star, National Council of Jewish Women, Congregation House of Jacob and Beth Tzedec, as well as numerous individuals such as Hyman Belzberg, Harry and Martha Cohen, Aaron Eichler, Israel Florence, Henry and Marcia Goldberg, David Lander, Ted Riback, AI Shumiatcher, Sheldon Chumir, and Diane and David Spindel. Also contained in these archival collections is a wealth of photos. The JHSSA hold copies from a number of these collections.

Call for Memorabilia

The Calgary JCC Arts & Culture department is calling upon people who have collected treasured artefacts of the popular Chinese game Mah-jong to be part in an interactive exhibit, depicting the story of the Calgary Jewish community and its love for this game. Be they game pieces, Mah-jong cards, photos, upcycled Mah-jong objects or paraphernalia, items can be donated or loaned to be incorporated into the *Mah-jong Musings* exhibit coming up in September 2019 at the JCC. To celebrate our community and be part of this exhibit, contact Shula Banchik at shula@cjcc.ca.

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Sustainer - \$250 Family/Corporate/Institutions - \$45 Benefactor - \$125 Individual - \$25 Patron - \$75
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Credit Card Number:
Expiry Date: 🗌 Visa 🗌 MasterCard
Name:
Signature:
Email:
Do not send cash through the mail

WINTER 2019

Marcel Segal: "I Knew Watches" A Story of Survival and Rebuilding

Many Calgarians have fond memories of Marcel de Paris, an iconic jewelry and gift store at 1126 - 17th Avenue SW, which served the Calgary community for decades. How many remember getting their ears pierced at the exotically named (for Calgary) shop? How many still wear the beautiful jewelry crafted by Marcel? How many registered for their wedding gifts or purchased treasures at the companion store, Marcelle's Gift and Fine China? The owners, Minnie and Marcel Segal, were well-known to their customers and community-but perhaps Marcel's story is not as well known as his entrepreneurial skills. Marcel is one of approximately 100 Holocaust survivors who made their homes in Calgary after World War II. Despite the tragedies they had endured, all of them went on to build new families, to succeed in business, and to contribute to the Jewish and general Calgary communities. This is Marcel's story, with excerpts from his video testimony, recorded by Calgary Jewish Federation in December 2012.

Marcel Segal was born on August 11, 1929, in Nancy, France, a picturesque town in Alsace Lorraine. He had an older sister, Anna, and a younger brother, Henri. Marcel's father was a merchant who sold clothing in markets. The family wasn't wealthy but they got by. They lived in a predominantly Jewish part of the town. Marcel's first language was Yiddish, which was the language spoken at home, but he attended a French public school. He remembers



Marcel Segal in French army, 1940s. Source: Minnie Segal. JHSSA #3197

a happy childhood—until 1940, when the Germans invaded France.

1940 everything In changed. The Germans were bombing different cities in France. And I remember one time, they were bombing Nancy... We decided, my friend and I, to go see. We went there and they made us go down in the shelter but there were so many people we couldn't stay there. We were a block away and another set of bombs came and one of them hit the shelter. We were lucky that we went out....

Then they put an edict that you had to wear the star. The Jewish star.... At one point, in Nancy, they started to pick up the non-French Jews...[Marcel and his family were French citizens, but his mother's sister and her family had come from Poland and were not citizens yet]. I remember they put them in a camp in a jail—and they didn't feed them either before they put them on the train. My mother decided to take all the food we had and we went to the jail. There was a big gate and they were on the other side. And she said, 'Throw the food across.' And I said, 'We've got so little. Should we do that?' And she looked at me and she said, 'They've got less.' And I took the bag and I threw it over the fence and we went back home....

Interviewer: Do you know what happened to them?

Marcel: They never came back. My aunt with five children, they never came back.

Soon Marcel was no longer allowed to go to school. His father asked a watchmaker he knew to take Marcel as an apprentice. The watchmaker agreed on condition that Marcel would not wear his yellow star when he came to work.

One day I had a call from my friend Roland. He came to the store and said, 'You better not go home, they had a [raid]...they picked up the rest of the Jews and came to pick up your mother, your sister, and brother.' He said they are at his grandmother's place, the building next to it....What happened...my mother heard some footsteps coming up the stairs. We lived on the third floor and they were speaking German—then she knew what was happening. Then she took my sister and my brother, they went to the attic. They broke some planks and then went to the next attic. That's when they came down to my friend Roland's grandmother's place. And they stayed there and that's when he decided to come and get me and tell me.

And my father came and he just didn't know what to do, but he decided there was a little hut behind the factory where he works and maybe we can hide in there. And we went back and got my mother and my sister and brother at night, and we walked back to that place. There was absolutely nothing there. Then we left my mother and sister and brother there-we thought we could salvage a few things from the place where we lived. Then we walked back there, and he had a two-wheeled cart and we decided that we'd pile in whatever we can. We picked up a bunch of clothes and pillows and blankets-whatever we could carry. And on the road coming back some German trucks came and they cut us off from the sidewalk. My father says, 'We're finished.' And he looked at me and he knew it was bad. But anyway, the Germans wanted some directions....My father spoke German...and he told them that he came from a certain part of Germany...and the German got back in his truck and they went away

There were no more Jews left in that town. And where we were heading there was one room and a tiny little kitchen. And we stayed there for 15 months. My mother used to go every morning to the marketplace. We didn't have no coupons and very, very little money. And my mother waited till they closed the market and whatever the leftovers they had or the rotten fruit or whatever it was, she picked it up, took it back to our place, cleaned it up...that's what we had.

Marcus Segal: "I Knew Watches"

Marcel's father continued to work in the factory and no one knew he was Jewish or that the family was hiding in the hut. Marcel also continued to work for the watchmaker, who knew he was Jewish.

He helped me; he gave me a little more money every day, just to survive....He was a good man and I stayed there until the end of the war. We had to be very careful. We had no electricity. All we had was water and a little stove that was there too. And we used to get some lumber to use for the stove winter and summer....And my mother used to put some blankets in front of the window because we used to have candles, there was no electricity. It was not easy.

Marcel's good friend Roland was one of the only people who knew where they were hiding.

Roland used to bring us some food once in awhile, but again, nobody had very much and what he brought us was very little, but it was very nice. And one day he decided to take me to a movie. As soon as we sat down, the lights went on and the Germans were there raiding because they were looking for prisoners, KPs, or whatever or anyone they wanted to arrest. We knew that theatre. We went to the back where the bathroom was and we broke a window and we jumped in the courtyard—there was a little courtyard behind the bathroom, and there was a wall—it was closed in and I couldn't reach the top of the wall, but Roland could and he pulled me up and as he did that, the Germans were in the courtyard shooting at us. They missed us. You know, he went one way and I went the other and I didn't see him anymore. He was so scared and I was so scared...we didn't see each other for a long time.

Marcel's family went into hiding in 1943 and they were in hiding for 15 months. No papers. No food coupons. Marcel was fortunate to have the job with the watchmaker—he and his parents left the hiding place almost every day. But his brother and sister never left the room.

Liberation came to Nancy in 1944. But it was too late for Marcel's mother, who died days before liberation, severely weakened by the lack of food and poor conditions. Few of the extended family survived. Joseph, Marcel's father, had four brothers who were all married with children. None of the them survived the Holocaust. Sara, Marcel's mom, had three sisters and one brother. Two sisters, the brother and their families perished in the Holocaust. One sister and her family survived.



Marcel Segal. Source: Minnie Segal. JHSSA#3198

After the war, Marcel continued to work for the watchmaker and served in the French army as a paratrooper. His father remarried. One day Marcel decided to take a trip to Canada and the US to find a place to resettle. He arrived in Calgary in 1953—drawn to the city because he had heard about the Calgary Stampede.

I saw it in a theatre in a newsreel. They talked about



Minnie and Marcel Segal in their store, Marcelle's, 1980s Source: Minnie Segal. JHSSA #3199

Canada, about the Calgary Stampede. I thought I'd like to see that.... My plan was to come here to see the Stampede, because I thought they lived that way 365 days a year, and then go on to Vancouver, Los Angeles, back to New York and back home...[in Calgary] I met a bunch of Jewish boys here. The refugees. They used to get together and I met my wife and that was it.

Marcel married Minnie Gordon in 1955 at the old Beth Israel Synagogue. Rabbi Smolensky, Minnie's grandfather, married them. Eventually his whole family—his father, sister and brother—all followed Marcel to Calgary.

When I [first] came, I thought they spoke French everywhere in Canada. I realized in Montreal that was okay, but when I came to Calgary it was a different story. But it's okay, I made out....I got a job with People's Credit Jewelers right away [even though he didn't speak English and they didn't speak French]. They gave me a desk and gave me some repairs to do. I knew watches.

Marcel worked for People's for one year.

The manager found out I was Jewish [when] I invited him to our wedding. After that he gave me the worst jobs he could. Just because he didn't like Jews. Then he fired me. Then we decided to talk to the main boss in Toronto and he said: he's a good manager for the store but I could have my job back. But I said—you're going to keep him? and he said yes, he's a good manager for the store. So I said, you keep him, I'm out of there... We started on our own. We

Continued from Page 4

Marcus Segal: "I Knew Watches"

had a little suite and I started taking [repair] jobs. After that we had a little store and then bigger and bigger and bigger...

Marcel put up signs in local stores and people brought their repair work to his workshop in their apartment. After a time, Minnie and Marcel purchased a house at 1126 - 17th Avenue SW. They lived in the back and made the living room and front porch into a store, which opened in 1955. Later, they purchased three more lots, tore down the original building, and built a large new store. Over the years, the store expanded from selling only jewelry to selling a wide range of gifts and fine china. Marcel de Paris and Marcelle's Gift and Fine China were the centre of Marcel and Minnie's lives for 45 years, until they sold the business in December 2000.

[By the time they sold the business,] we had 23 employees in the gift side and five jewelers in my side....It was a big business. Minnie was my biggest helper. I was taking care of the jewelry shop and Minnie took care of the gift side.

For many years, Marcel was one of the survivors who spoke to high school students as part of the annual Holocaust Education Symposium co-sponsored by Calgary Jewish Federation and Mount Royal University.

For 20 years when I came to Canada I wouldn't talk about my past. I felt that nobody was interested. For years, I decided not to talk about it and live a normal life.

What changed Marcel's mind was the revelation that James Keegstra, a high school teacher in Eckville, Alberta, was teaching Holocaust denial and Jewish conspiracy theories to his students. When he said it wasn't that bad and Jews are making up stories, a few Jews got together and decided to tell their own stories. And that's when I changed my mind and started to tell my story. And as you know, we do it every year and I've been doing it ever since...

Marcel's message to the students he spoke to:

To go against anyone who goes against any religion... I want them to fight against anything that's wrong against any human being no matter where they come from. When they see something wrong, they should stand up against it.

[Telling his story] is painful every time but I learned to cope with it. When I think about it, it bothers me. It was a very, very hard time. But I have a good life, I have a beautiful family. I couldn't ask for more.

Minnie and Marcel had three children: Suzette Blom, Jean Michel Segal and Noah Gordon Segal. They now have six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Marcel passed away in November 2016, but his legacy as a Holocaust survivor and a successful businessman lives on.

JHSSA is interested in collecting the histories of Holocaust survivors who rebuilt their lives in southern Alberta. We want to preserve the stories of their contributions to the economic and social fabric of our communities. We invite readers who have information about survivors and their contributions to contact our office.

Calgary Jewish Community Cookbook: A fundraising venture from the Calgary Jewish Academy

by Kirsten Olson

Food is often the best way to connect people to their culture, their community, and their family. When our children started attending the Calgary Jewish Academy we met many new families and made many new friends in the community, often while volunteering in the school kitchen. Our children are now in their last year at CJA and are preparing for their trip to Israel in March. This is an annual event for the Grade 9 students and a way for them to learn more about Israel and to meet up again with their pen pals who spent time with them last November. It is an amazing opportunity for the students and one that they have been working towards since they started attending CJA. Preparation includes learning about Jewish culture, the history of Israel and the Jewish people, Judaism, and, of course, the Hebrew language. The students have also been working to help fund this trip through many activities including helping to prepare a Calgary Jewish Academy Community Cookbook.

The cookbook will represent the many different traditions of Jewish cooking and will include recipes from a few local restaurants and some celebrity Jewish chefs. There will also be recipes that are used at the school for special events and recipes provided by school staff and families. Some of Calgary's favourite food establishments are, or were, owned by Jewish families, and we are looking for representation from these places as well. Historian Harry Sanders will write an opening essay in cookbook highlightthe ing the many connections time between through Calgary's Jewish community and food, including food production, the hospitality

Cover of a cookbook produced by a local CHW chapter, c.1970s

industry, and family and community celebrations. CJA students will help to choose recipes and provide artwork.

The cookbook will be printed spring 2019. Order forms are available at Calgary Jewish Academy at 6700 Kootenay St SW, Calgary or by sending an email request to cjacookbook@gmail.com.



Continued from Page 5

Thank You to our 2019 Members

Membership donations are used to support the projects and operations of the JHSSA, which is an independent, self-sustaining organization. We issue official tax receipts for all donations. Our membership year is from September to August. Welcome to our new members. Special thanks to all those members who have made donations beyond their membership fee. Please inform our office of any inadvertent omissions or corrections so we can include them in our next issue.

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JHSSA NEWS -

8

JHSSA accepted in LIFE & LEGACY Program

Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta is proud to be accepted as part of Calgary Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary's LIFE & LEGACY Program. We join nine other local Jewish organizations in an exciting opportunity to ensure our future sustainability. This program, to assure Jewish tomorrows, is supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

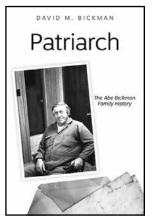
Your legacy gift to the JHSSA will help ensure that our rich history will be passed down to future generations. Your legacy commitment supports our continued efforts to collect, preserve and promote the contributions and the stories of the Jewish communities of southern Alberta.

We invite you to contact our legacy team for further information on this innovative gifting opportunity.

JHSSA Legacy Team: Dorothy Hanson 403-703-7422 Saundra Lipton 403-238-1977 Laura Shuler 403-605-9807

Patriarch: The Abe Bickman Family History by David M. Bickman

JHSSA is pleased to announce that former board member David Bickman's book, *Patriarch: The Abraham Bickman Family History* has been published and is available for purchase. The Bickman (Bikman) family had roots in Ukraine and Abraham settled in Lethbridge. David inherited some family documents and letters, and spent many years researching the family history in the wider context of Jewish eastern European Jewish history. David has kindly agreed to give a talk for JHSSA later in 2019 about his



research and about writing his family story. More information about the book can be found at https://books.friesenpress.com

D-Day Tour to Normandy

Ellin Bessner, author of *Double Threat*, has informed us that she will host a D-Day 75th Anniversary Canadian Jewish Community Tour in Normandy departing from Toronto May 20, 2019. For full details, see www.merittravel.com/hostedtours

Donation to Prague Jewish Museum



JHSSA's Agi Romer Segal presenting a copy of A Glitch in Time, Trudy Cowan's children's colouring book created for Glenbow Museum's 1986 The Precious Legacy exhibit which featured Judaic treasures of the Czech Jewish community to Katerina Honskusova, Head of Development and PR at the Jewish Museum of Prague. She was also given a copy of JHSSA's A Joyful Harvest. JHSSA #4106.21

President's Message

Continued from Page 1

salute all the interviewers and interviewees. Recording and preserving these oral testaments is a key part of the JHSSA mandate.

To our many supporters, we are duly grateful for your memberships, donations, and attendance at our events. I want to especially acknowledge the generous donation of the Mona and Alvin Libin Foundation. As a self-funded organization we rely on this essential support to advance the ongoing preservation and promotion of our community history. These include publishing our journal, creating displays and programs, maintaining various collections of local history, and responding to questions regarding southern Alberta's Jewish history.

We are excited to be part of LIFE & LEGACY, a collaboration between Calgary Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary and a number of other community organizations, to promote after-lifetime giving to ensure the vibrancy of our Jewish community into the future. We hope you will consider participating in this program. More information is in this issue.

Please also explore the many resources on the JHSSA website which now include *Attestations: A Military Mosaic*, a series of videos highlighting the experience of a number of Jewish servicemen. It was created by Roberta Kerr with support from an Alberta Cultural and Tourism Canada 150 grant. I encourage you to regularly consult our website and/or Federation's *ePom* for notices regarding upcoming JHSSA programs.

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