



DISCOVERY

The Journal of the

תגלית

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

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Extra! Extra! Voices of Experience

The program at our AGM this past fall—a summary of our most recent Oral History project, complete with readings from several of the interviews—was a great success. The following is an edited version of the report delivered by Project Coordinator, Judy Shapiro.

The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta secured a grant last year from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation to fund our “Voices of Experience” Oral History project. Before receiving the grant, JHSSA had about 200 oral histories recorded; this grant allowed us to expand the collection to include 50 new interviews and to ensure that all 50 would be transcribed! I was given the honour of coordinating this project—and with the help of many other people, it has been an outstanding success.

The first challenge was determining who to interview. Sandra Lipton, Laura Shuler, Agi Romer Segal and I prepared a list of potential interviewees. Our criteria were age, contribution to and involvement in the Jewish community, and contribution and involvement in the broader Calgary community. We also were looking for a cross section of our community—we wanted to make sure we had people born and raised

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President's Message

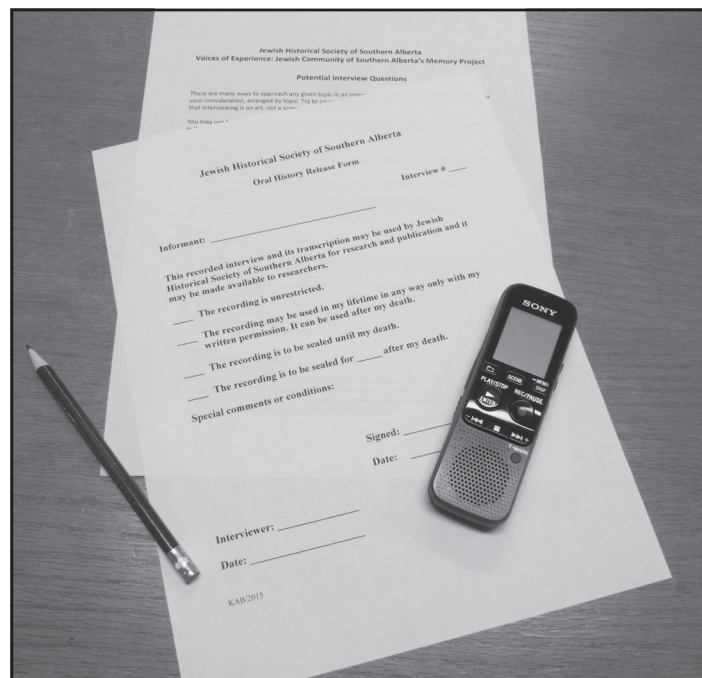
By Sandra Lipton



For almost 30 years the JHSSA has collected, recorded and promoted the history of Jews in southern Alberta. In addition to those promotional activities primarily focused within the Jewish community such as our journal *Discovery*, lectures, and displays in the JCC lobby, we also aim to highlight our history to the general community, often through collaborative events. One recent example is our display on local Jewish history set up in the lobby of ATP during their February production of “Old Stock”. We are grateful to our archivist, Roberta Kerr, for curating this display.

It is thanks to the dedication of our staff, board and volunteers, and the ongoing support from members of our community, supporters from outside of Alberta, and government and private grants that we are able to accomplish so much. I want to particularly acknowledge those individuals who have honored us with a legacy gift in their financial planning. We are most grateful to the 27 individuals to date who have committed to leaving a legacy to us through the Calgary Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary's LIFE & LEGACY program supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. These supporters have not only ensured support of the JHSSA in the future, but also today. Thanks to your generosity we qualified for an incentive grant of \$7,500 that will provide much needed current operating support to our self-funded organization. Your bequests will help ensure that our history is preserved for the future and that the stories of our Jewish community will continue to be presented in the years to come. Please

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THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY B'NAI BRITH CALGARY LODGE #816

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Program readers (left to right) Elliott Steinberg, Tracy Smith, Gary Silberg, Zena Drabinsky. Photo credit: Jewish Free Press.

here, as well as those who are Calgarians by choice—immigrants from a variety of places including Montreal, Israel, South Africa, Russia. We wanted the rural and small-town experience. Our list was very long and some demographics were covered better than others, but this is a continuous project—history, as you know, is on-going!

To date, we have completed the 50 interviews promised as part of the grant proposal. In fact, we've interviewed 53 people, including three in Lethbridge. 51 transcriptions are complete. In addition to the actual recordings and transcripts, I'm working on a summary and key words for each of the interviews. The summaries will be put up on the JHSSA website so that researchers can more readily identify the interviews that will interest them.

So what have we learned? Primarily, we've learned that we've got a great cast of characters in our community. Every person we interviewed had an interesting story to tell—often many interesting stories to tell.

Without consciously trying, we managed to interview an equal number of men and women. We interviewed six past-presidents of Calgary Jewish Community Council or Federation, a former senator, several recipients of the Order of Canada, second generation Holocaust survivors who came here as children, people who were raised on farms. We heard about happy childhoods, and about antisemitism. Thankfully not much of that, but we did hear about serious issues, like the Holocaust-denying Keegstra affair, and the letter bomb at the Jewish Centre. We heard how the Jewish community helped people integrate. About how small-town Jews worked hard to maintain their traditions and Jewish connections. We heard about the Yom Kippur dances, Pesach seders, youth groups and the Hadassah bazaars.

In every interview, we started with the family's immigration story—whether that person was the immigrant or whether it was their parents or even grandparents—and we got delightful and heartwarming stories!

Ruth Bercovice shared the story of how her mother found relatives in Calgary after surviving the Holocaust. Former Calgarian Saul Koschitsky told an amazing story about the time when he and his wife Mira found the woman who had saved Mira during the Holocaust. Anna Gelt spoke about how difficult it was to [get out of] the former Soviet Union

in the 1970s. Richard Bronstein described how his Holocaust survivor parents couldn't get over the vastness of Canada, as they traveled to their work as farm labourers on Harry Veiner's farm outside Brooks.

Many of our ancestors arrived much earlier, and many worked as peddlers or merchants when they first came to this country. Gertrude Cohos told a wonderful story of how her grandfather started out in Cape Breton; Trudy Cowan shared how her grandparents met. And speaking of love stories, there was the story of how Walter Moscovitz almost missed his own wedding to his beloved Jessie, who recently passed away.

Calgary was a small town back in the day, and a number of people spoke about neighbours who later became famous. Ayala Manolson, for example, grew up next door to Norman Kwong, who became the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. She recounted how she met him at the opening of the JHSSA's *Joyful Harvest* exhibit and how excited she was that he recognized her. Ayala also told a story about her father, Sam Hanen, and his challenging experiences as a farmer. That was certainly a hard life, echoed by Doreen Kline's description of her mother's typical harvest-season day, feeding workers literally from dawn until after dark.

While some of our ancestors tried farming, others were shopkeepers in small towns, where they worked hard to maintain their Jewish connections. Myra Paperny told great stories about growing up as one of the only Jewish families in Ponoka.

Many people spoke about their experience in *cheder*, after-school Hebrew school. And in at least one case, a Hebrew school drop-out made good; that was Joe Spier.

We heard stories of personal antisemitic incidents, like the one Phil Libin related, and we heard about the first Jewish people to break down the barriers and join various long-restricted clubs in Calgary, including the Glencoe Club.

We heard several stories about the Keegstra affair—the teacher in Eckville, Alberta, who was teaching that the Holocaust never happened. Apparently, there was a bit of a divide in the Jewish community about how that should be handled. We've got a few perspectives on that, and some good did come of it; Ron Gitter, who was an MLA at the time, later a senator, was asked by then-premier Peter Lougheed to head a committee investigating issues of tolerance and understanding within the educational system.

Alvin Libin also spoke about Peter Lougheed in his recording, because they grew up together—lived on the same street and played together. And later on, Peter asked Alvin to get involved in the cancer centre at Foothills Hospital—a first foray into health care that led to many more, and continues to be a passion for Alvin.

A number of people spoke about how world events impacted their lives. The Holocaust, of course, that impacted second generation as well as survivors; the Six Day War, which for some was a seminal event in their Jewish identity, as well as a memorable occasion when the whole community came together and raised funds for Israel. Cheryl Shore was one of the people who spoke about that time.

The Six Day War was also seminal in the life of Garry Kohn of Lethbridge, who was so worried about Israel's fate that he volunteered to serve in the IDF. He arrived in Israel just after the war ended but helped with the clean-up efforts for seven months.

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Read All About It: 'New' Newspapers in JHSSA Holdings!

One of the best things about working in an archives is the chance discovery of interesting things. Previous research into southern Alberta Jewish journalism, even as reported in JHSSA's own publication *A Joyful Harvest*, suggested that there had been four local newspaper incarnations, beginning in 1914: *The Canadian Western Jewish Times*, *Calgary Jewish News*, *The Jewish Star*, and *The Jewish Free Press*.

Prior to 1914, news from the early Jewish communities of southern Alberta was included, in English, in the Montreal-based *Canadian Jewish Times*, and in the Yiddish-language *Israelite Press* [*Dos Yiddishe Vot*]. Then brothers A.L. (Abe) and J.B. (Jacob) Barron began their ambitious undertaking, *The Canadian Western Jewish Times*. As noted in an earlier issue of *Discovery*, the paper aimed to be "A Jewish Monthly devoted to Jewish interests and Jewish advancement". J.B.'s editorial emphasizes that the situation of the Jews in the west is unique in that as immigrants "...we have been and are among the first, and the opportunity is ours to record upon history the first victory over prejudice and intolerance without a struggle". The editorial board was comprised of representatives from Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Moose Jaw, Regina and Winnipeg. Stella Sereth, who would go on to write for the weekly *Banff Crag and Canyon*, was one of four female reporters. The inaugural issue, published in April 1914, turned out to be the only issue of the paper.

For the next several decades, Winnipeg's *Jewish Post* and later the *Western Jewish News*, carried regular reports from Calgary correspondents, but according to *A Joyful Harvest*, it wasn't until 1962 that southern Alberta again had its own journalistic voice, when Calgary

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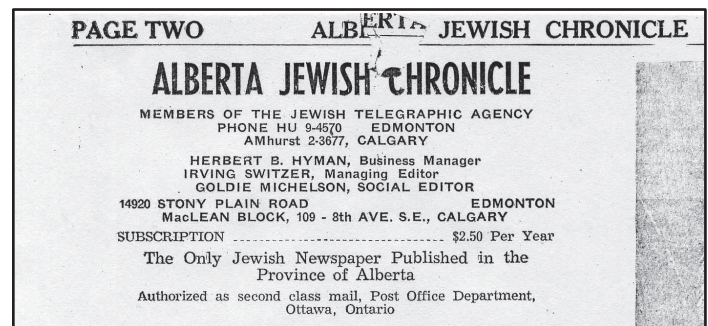
Stephen Krasnow's life was affected by a different international conflict—the Viet Nam War. It led to him abandoning plans to work in the U.S. and instead stay in Montreal, until political events—and the Quebec separatists—intervened again, prompting his eventual move to Alberta.

And of course, we heard quintessential Calgary stories. Lots of people, and especially Reva Faber, had memories of the Calgary Stampede, which for Reva's family meant taking in as many as 20 people a night, who shared the one bathroom in their little two-bedroom house near the fairgrounds.

We could go on and on...there are so many good stories to share.

This project was a labour of love for a lot of people. I want to thank Sandra, Agi, and Laura for pulling this project together; our wonderful volunteer interviewers—Laura, Maxine Fischbein, Halley Givritz, David Busheikin, Riki Heilik, Sheila Gurevitch, Marni Besser, Carol Stoffman, Reva Faber, Karen Roth. And our transcribers—Ruth Ullman (the queen of transcription) and Maxine again, as well as David Busheikin, Sharon Sattin, Mary Taub, and Ken Drabinsky. We can always use more transcribers, so if you're interested please contact the JHSSA office.

This project has been an outstanding success, and tremendous fun, besides—and hopefully we'll continue recording our stories, our history, forever!



Jewish Community Council began issuing *Calgary Jewish News*. This monthly publication, under the editorship of various Council employees, including Harry Shatz, Gil August and Douglas Wertheimer, continued through 1988, and for much of its run was the only locally-produced source of Jewish news. It was joined in 1980 by *The Jewish Star*, published by Douglas Wertheimer and his wife, Gila, who also published *The Jewish Star: Edmonton Edition*.

Both editions of *The Jewish Star* ceased when the Wertheimer's left Calgary in 1990, but soon after their departure, *The Jewish Free Press* was established by Richard Bronstein, Judy Shapiro and Ira Brier, who served as editor until he left Calgary. Shapiro took over until 2004, followed by Bronstein through December 2019 when the paper was sold. Publication of *The Alberta Jewish News*, a new undertaking by the publishers of the *Edmonton Jewish News*, began in January 2020.

What this chronology fails to include, however, are the chance discoveries mentioned at the beginning of this article.

The first discovery was a copy of the Vol. 1 No. 6, August 1960 issue of the *Alberta Jewish Chronicle*, according to its masthead "The Only Jewish Newspaper Published in the Province of Alberta". This paper has long been considered an Edmonton publication, but a closer look at this issue reveals offices in both Calgary and Edmonton. Further, while the majority of the advertisements are for Edmonton-based ventures, fully 75% of the Alberta-centric articles are about Calgary, or written by a Calgarian. Curiosity led to a perusal of the JHSSA subject files, which included Vol. 3 No. 4, published Friday, March 2, 1962. This issue notes that letters to the editor should be addressed to the Calgary office, "Irving Switzer, Managing Editor", and virtually all of its news is based on Calgary residents and events, with only one Edmonton article and one page of "Edmonton Social News". Interestingly, the advertisements in this issue represent interests not only in Calgary and Edmonton, but Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, as well as Grand Forks and Fargo, North Dakota. It is presumed that the business concerns represented by these ads had connections—perhaps familial—with Alberta.

The only other *Alberta Jewish Chronicle* issue held by JHSSA—Vol. 7 No. 2 (July 1966)—consists primarily of Edmonton Social News, with some Calgary Social News, two articles, and many, many advertisements in honour of Israel's "18th Anniversary". By 1987 *The Alberta Jewish Chronicle* was a quarterly publication, with little Calgary content, but we are pleased to give its early inception its rightful place, as

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Spreading the News:

The conclusion of our Archives Backlog Project, and why physical archives matter in a digital age

By R. Kerr

After three years of steady, detailed work, our Documentary Heritage Communities Program grant concludes this spring. We have received questions as to whether it's really worth the time required to process material in this way; why don't we just go ahead and digitize everything we have—that is, create computer scans that can be posted online and perused at will—and leave it at that. It is 2020 after all...

As a storage mechanism, digitization has become the go-to for day-to-day records management programs. The work of an historical archives, however, is preservation in perpetuity, and the considerations are different. The primary benefits of digitizing historical material are the ease of information sharing, and the provision of access to material that might be too fragile for repeated handling or exposure to light. However, archival digitization can't be seen as a replacement for long-term preservation techniques, and is never the first step in archival management. Indeed, any archival digitization project needs to be based on a solid foundation of standard archival procedure.

For starters, consider the numbers: a single metre of textual records—about three full banker boxes—includes up to 7,500 pieces of paper. If you start with 30m of material, as we did for this project, that translates to a potential 225,000 pages to be scanned, including significant duplicates and non-relevant material. With an industry processing average of 2-4 minutes per page, that becomes quite an investment of time (1.24 years or more if we worked around the clock even during major holidays). For those who feel this is more time than should be needed to scan a page, please remember that much of our material is fragile and of non-standard and varying size, and needs to be handled appropriately. In addition, care needs to be taken to be sure the appropriate metadata (digital file size, date of creation, etc.) is attached to each document. If the material is not grouped or described in any detail, this becomes an overwhelming mass of material for a researcher to peruse on the computer in search of answers to their questions. To

Read All About It

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a locally-produced source of Jewish news.

The second discovery, though smaller, was even more exciting—a photocopy of Vol. 1 No. 3, September 24, 1943, of *The Jewish Community Centre Bulletin*, also called *The Jewish Community Bulletin*, published in Calgary through the House of Israel community centre. The issue lists an editorial committee including Rabbi A. Horowitz, H. Crystal, and N. Safran, with Yoel Joffe serving as Business Manager; a small item notes that the first two issues had been edited by Mr. I. Engel. Rather than focusing on the activities of the community centre, the articles included reflect the wide range of interests—social, political and religious—of the Calgary community as a whole. An editorial note clearly states the intention to continue the publication, and anyone with additional knowledge or issues of *The Jewish Community Centre Bulletin*—or of *Alberta Jewish Chronicle*—is encouraged to contact the JHSSA office.

mitigate this, an archives can decide to be selective about what is digitized and what is not, but this requires a considerable investment of time and effort to assess and weed the material, and then to document what has been scanned and what has not. Items and subjects that one generation deems significant or important, often seem irrelevant to subsequent generations. It's not that selective decisions can't be made, but care must be taken that they can be revisited.

In addition to the undertaking of the initial scanning, there then needs to be a plan in place for the ongoing financial and practical maintenance of these digital files, including both image integrity, and the migration of data as technologies evolve. It is a significant ongoing commitment, and the results only merit the investment if the material to be digitized is suitably assessed, prepared, organized and described first.

It is also important to not underestimate the importance of the material itself, in its received state. The manipulation of digital material—even presumably locked digital material—is increasingly simple, whether it's a format change in a document, something being inserted into (or removed from) a photo, or computer date stamps being altered. If we become overly reliant on digitized versions of our history, we run the risk of its "truth" being changed. Not that it isn't also possible to alter physical documents and photos, but there is power in original material. In the same way that a replica Sandy Koufax baseball glove won't attract the same interest as the real thing, there is nothing quite like seeing the actual ship's manifest that records the arrival of one's forebears, or a dance card with an uncle's faded-ink signature. An archives is a repository for more than just information. Digitization is a wonderful way to let the broader public know what we have, but it doesn't replace the actual having.

Which brings us to the summary of our Archives Backlog Project.

As regular readers of *Discovery* will know, in March 2017 JHSSA took steps to address a large backlog of archival material, with funding provided through a multi-year grant from the Documentary Heritage Communities Program/Library and Archives Canada, formally called JHSSA Archival Collections Accessibility Project Phase 2. The process of evaluation, organization and description was combined with physically housing our large backlog of archival material over the course of the project. Our starting point was a backlog of approximately 30m of textual records and 40 objects, including textile, audio-visual and ceramic items. Approximately 2m of records were deemed better held by other institutions, and arrangements were made for donation as appropriate.

In total 33m of textual records, representing 63 fonds and collections, have been processed as of this writing. This includes 55 organizational fonds, 2 family fonds, and 6 collections.

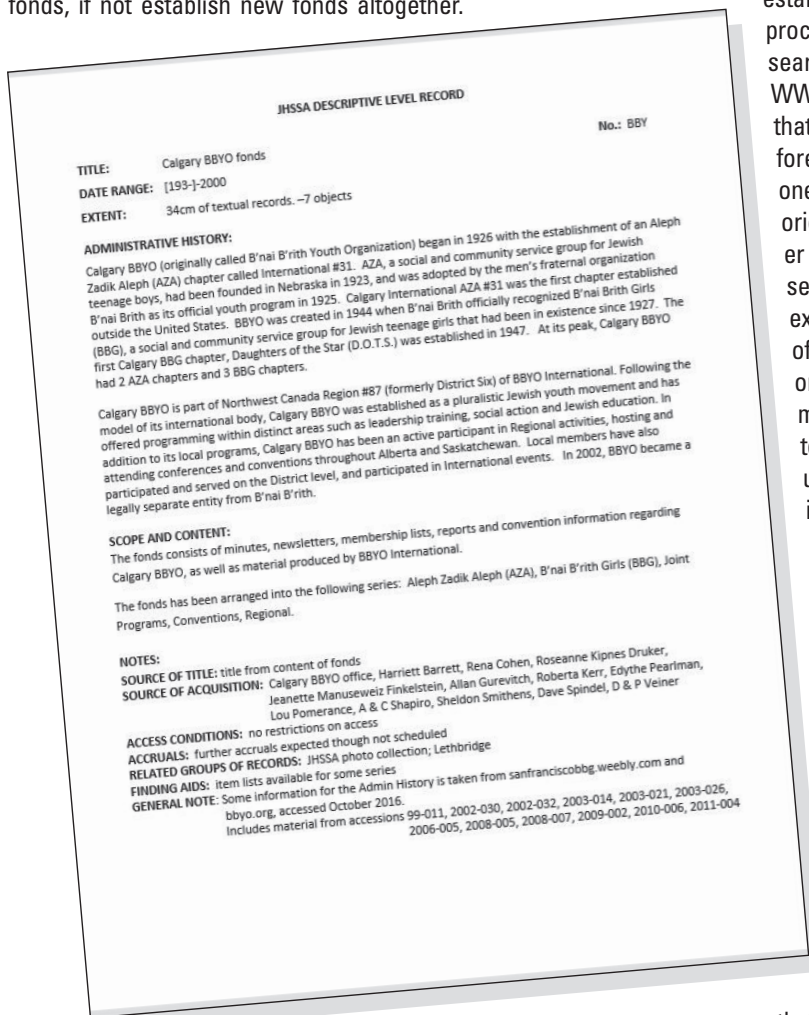
Close readers will note that we have actually processed more material than we started with, which speaks to an interesting characteristic of archival work—the tendency of the work to self-generate. To explain: There were many times during the processing of the material when something unexpected was uncovered, perhaps a date in

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Spreading the News

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a document that meant that previously recorded information had to be re-written, or proof that material that had previously been thought to belong to one fonds in fact needed to be removed to another. And sometimes what we discovered was primary source evidence of something that we hadn't known existed, that led us to add new series to existing fonds, if not establish new fonds altogether.



There are times when these 'outgrowths' might be left for future handling, but in some circumstances, it's better to attend to them right away. If you are picturing the care and pruning of an odd species of tree, with multiple branches tangled together and exuberantly growing, you are not far off. And this leads to our current situation, with some records, primarily related to collections and family fonds, remaining from our original estimate—even though we've successfully processed more metres of material than we started with. It should also be noted that over the course of this grant, considerable new material has been donated to JHSSA and now awaits appraisal and processing. Some of this material will likely result in the establishment of new fonds and collections, while other material represents accruals (i.e. archival additions) to over a dozen of our now-extant fonds. We are gratified by the trust placed in us by our members and the community at large, and hope that it won't be long before we have the time and funding to address these accruals and update the various descriptions as required to reflect the added material.

One of the last steps in formal processing is the creation of detailed archival descriptions, and one for each of the aforementioned 62 fonds has been posted to our website in PDF format. While this is the only digital point of access to our holdings, we would like to emphasize its importance, and the extent to which the work of this project, i.e. the establishment of the various fonds and collections, has simplified the process of identifying and accessing archival material for JHSSA researchers. Recently, for example, the office received a query about WWII home-front activity in Calgary. The researcher was presuming that any number of community initiatives were undertaken, and before this project began, answering the query would have relied on one of two methods: either trusting the memory of the archivist who originally handled the donations to correctly direct the researcher to relevant documents, or waiting on the results of a physical search of all the material holdings relating to every organization extant at the time—keeping in mind that prior to this project, most of the material was recorded and filed by donor, rather than by organization. Re-organizing JHSSA's holding into proper fonds means that now, all of a given organization's records are housed together, and can therefore be accessed quite readily. Even more useful is the fact that the formal description of each organization includes a date range, so it is immediately known—without having to go through the archival material itself—whether or not the fonds includes any original documents relating to a particular time frame, in this case 1939–1945. Posting the completed descriptions on our website means that researchers can see at a glance whether or not our archival holdings might be useful to them, and encourages researchers to contact us directly for access and supporting information. This last step of contacting us is quite important, as the subject files housed in our office are easily as extensive as our archives. In some cases, even if we don't have primary source (i.e. original) documents, we may have considerable photocopied/non-archival material in the subject files.

And this leads us to the most important reason for maintaining physical archives in a digital age. The brain is a curious thing, which processes information on a screen differently than that in hand. As a historical society, we are recording and preserving the stories of people, and the communities they built. Our recovery of the most fascinating of these stories, as we've seen time and time again, happens not through a search-term-specific focus, but by browsing a physical file, where our eye can be caught by a snippet of something that may or may not be what we thought we were looking for. Our archives provide a tactile structure that has a fundamental relationship to the many ways we capture what were once current events, and are now the histories we share.

JHSSA is most grateful to the Documentary Heritage Communities Program/Library and Archives Canada for the support it provides to organizations such as ours. We encourage everyone to explore the Archives tab on the JHSSA website, and contact the office with any questions or comments regarding our holdings.

- "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. »

Alberta's First Jewish Visitors

The 'discovery' of an Alberta Jewish newspaper awoke our interest in early reporting of our community. The following information was compiled some years ago by the late, great Jack Switzer, and was marked "To use in a future Discovery". Sources are indicated as in the original compilation.

The earliest known record of a Jewish traveler in Alberta was in 1869, when a prospector named Silverman spent the summer searching for gold on the North Saskatchewan River. He was the leader of a small party which arrived at Fort Edmonton early in the summer after hearing reports of a large strike in that area. They panned gold on the river all summer, but the Hudson's Bay Company, which was the only settlement in the area, refused to sell them provisions because they were Americans. This was to prevent an influx of settlers, which could interfere with their fur trading activities.

After a difficult summer, the party decided to go to Rocky Mountain House. When they left Fort Edmonton, the chief factor made the following comment in his daily journal: "Sept. 15, 1869 – Mr. Silverman (a Jew), and a party of four Americans and a Negro started for Fort Benton [Montana] today. They go to Rocky Mountain House first."

After a brief stay near the fort at Rocky, they set out across the prairies for Montana. They had to cross the hunting grounds of the Blackfoot Nation and took a circuitous route to avoid meeting them, as the Nation had declared open war on any prospectors they found in their territory.

Mr. Silverman and his men crossed the Bow River near Calgary and a month later stumbled into a settlement near the Teton River in Montana. Their food had run out weeks before and they had been able to

kill only one goose to feed nine men. In the last ten days of their journey they had been completely without food. While they were waiting for dinner in the settlement, the other men consumed an entire side of bacon among them. The records do not show if Mr. Silverman went hungry until the meal was prepared.

A few days later, the newspaper in Helena, Montana made the following comments:

"Silverman's party of prospectors arrived at Fort Benton on Oct. 19th from the Saskatchewan River mines. The reports are favorable. ... They were novices at mining, but cleared six dollars per day per man while in the mines." There is no record of Mr. Silverman ever returning to this area. (Silverman data from HBC Fort Edmonton journal at Provincial Archives of Alberta)

The next known Jewish visitor to Alberta was a man named Moses Solomon who owned a saloon in Fort Benton, Montana. In 1873 he built a trading post on the Belly River, south-east of the present Fort Macleod, and traded that winter with the indigenous communities. (Hugh Dempsey, *Historic Sites of Alberta*, Edmonton, Government of Alberta 1963, page 31)

Four years later a Jew named Ursinger brought a herd of horses from Montana to sell to the indigenous communities signing the Blackfoot Treaty. The remainder of the herd was sold to the Rev. John McDougall. (L.V. Kelly, *The Rangemen*, Toronto, Coles Publishing, 1980, page 120)

A few days later, on December 2, 1877, a mounted policeman at Fort Calgary wrote in his diary that "Severn, a Jew, arrived with horses to trade with the Indians." (diary of S.J. Clarke, Glenbow Archives.)

A Brush with Fame

Warm Welcome for Great Lady



Children of the Montreal Talmud Torah Schools greets Her Excellency Mrs. Golda Meir in the Hall of Honour at City Hall. On either side of the guest of honour can be seen His Worship, Mayor Jean Drapeau, and Mrs. Drapeau.

12-year old Eliezer Segal, second child from left, meets Golda Meir in Montreal. *Montreal Gazette*, Nov 1962.

Upcoming Events

Glenbow Western Research Centre Tour

The archives component of the Glenbow Museum has long been the go-to source for local researchers. The Glenbow Archives are being incorporated into the University of Calgary holdings, and JHSSA is pleased to announce that we are arranging a tour of the new Glenbow Western Research Centre on the university's main campus, for later this spring. Space is limited and will be available on a first-come basis, so please contact the JHSSA office for more information.

Jewish History Month

JHSSA is pleased to announce a partner-program with the Calgary Public Library in celebration of Jewish History Month. Join us for *Farmers, Peddlers, Philanthropists and more: the Jewish Experience in Southern Alberta* at the Central Library BMO Community Room, May 6, 7pm, as a group of talented performers will share stories and vignettes selected from our recent Voices of Experience Oral History project.

2020 Membership List

*In addition to our
Anonymous members:*

Sustainers

Jenny Belzberg
Ted Busheikin
Arlein Chetner
Rose Edelson
Bernie Ghert
Dorothy Hanson &
Sheldon Shagal
Sidney Hanson
Gordon & Eva Hoffman
Barbara Joffe
Robert & Sydney Kalef
Ron & Barb Krell
Harold & Sandra Lipton
Harvey & Rayna Rabin
Murray Robins
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Ken Drabinsky
Hayim & Jackie
Hamborger
Samuel Hanson
Betsy Jameson

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Steven Lipton
Larry & Sandy Martin
Michael & Phyllis
Moscovich
Les Moss
Stuart & Elaine Myron
Therese Nagler
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Jonathan & Kristen Joffe
Lily Joffe
Irena Karshenbaum
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JHSSA NEWS

Volunteers Needed:

Telling our stories: Do you like to read? While reading, do you sometimes imagine how a paragraph or description would sound out loud? If so, JHSSA wants you! With so much interest in our oral history collection, JHSSA has realized a need for volunteers with both patience and imagination, to come to our office and read oral history transcripts with an eye—or is that an ear?—to what might make good anecdotes for presentation or publication. You wouldn't be asked to prepare the material in any way, merely to note 'good bits', pointing our programmers and writers in the right direction. The transcripts are part of our archival holdings, so we need people who can come read at our office. There's always room for more!

Walking our walks: Do you have graphic design skills? Do you take pleasure in transforming simple documents into something dynamic? Our Alberta 150 project, Mapping Our History, needs your help! The online tour we created for our province's sesquicentennial, a walking tour of historic Jewish Calgary, is currently available only as a Google map on our website. Your talent would allow us to offer an engaging printable PDF of the tour, for those who prefer to walk and explore 'unplugged'. Please contact the office if you can help us generate new routes to our history.

Welcome to our New Arrivals!

JHSSA is pleased to welcome some wonderful additions to our display family! We have finally been able to retire our tired workhorse units, and replace them with glass-and-metal cabinets complete with locks, storage, and lots of display space. Come see them upstairs, at the JCC! Sincere thanks to Mimi Breitman, who facilitated the delivery.

President's Message

Continued from Page 1

consider supporting the JHSSA and other local Jewish organizations with a legacy gift. A future with an ongoing stream of funding that will support our various programs and ensure our history is not forgotten is a very welcome goal. Contact our office or check out our website for information on the variety of ways you can support the JHSSA.

At our next AGM we will formally celebrate our 30th anniversary and pay tribute to our founders, especially our recently retired long-serving archivist/librarian and founding member, Agi Romer Segal. Please mark Monday, October 26th in your calendars!

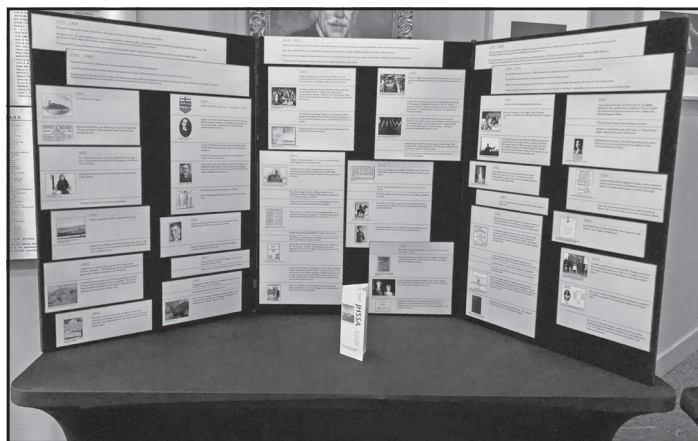
In response to a most successful AGM program highlighting stories from our oral histories, we will be presenting a similar program during Jewish History month in May. If you haven't yet checked out the amazing new Central Library, this event, co-sponsored with the Calgary Public Library, will provide you with an opportunity to do so. Please check our website for further details.

I am very happy to welcome Judy Chetner to the board, and thank outgoing members Betty Sherwood and Betsy Jameson for all their contributions. I am also pleased to welcome Roberta Kerr as our new archivist and Katie Baker to her new role as Program Coordinator/Office Manager. A special thank you to B'nai Brith Calgary Lodge #816 for sponsoring this issue of *Discovery*.

Wishing you all a happy Passover.

Display at ATP

This winter, Calgary theatre-goers were able to attend two events with Jewish connections. Theatre Calgary's production of "The Louder We Get" opened January 28th for a month-long run, enjoyed by all. Akiva Romer-Segal, son of JHSSA's long-time archivist Agi Romer Segal and University of Calgary professor emeritus Eliezer Segal, wrote the lyrics for this empowering musical. Almost concurrently, Alberta Theatre Projects presented "Old Stock—A Refugee Love Story", the klezmer-underscored story of Jewish Romanian immigrants in Montreal. JHSSA was invited to prepare a lobby display for ATP, outlining the development of southern Alberta's Jewish communities. In addition, Archivist Roberta Kerr was the featured guest for a pre-show interview with ATP producer Dianne Goodman, followed by an audience Q & A session.



Panels from *A Joyful Harvest* create a lobby display for the February production of "Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story", put on by Alberta Theatre Projects.

DISCOVERY

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

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