



DISCOVERY

The Journal of the

תגלית

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

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Historic Calgary Week 2018

A Colourful Life: Morris "Two-Gun" Cohen and the Chinese Community

presented by Dr. Don Smith

Sunday, August 5, 2018, 3:45–4:30 pm

Memorial Park Library, 1221 – 2 Street SW

We are pleased to announce that JHSSA will again be partnering with Chinook Country Historical Society for Historic Calgary Week (HCW) which will take place July 27 to August 7. Aptly, the theme for this Historic Calgary Week is "The Power of Partnerships". There are a number of ways to interpret this topic, and we have chosen to look at it from two angles. We wanted our event itself to involve a partner, and we wanted to focus on a subject that involved some sort of partnership. We have succeeded in doing both, in what promises to be an intriguing program about an unexpected partnership. We are fortunate to have renowned historian Dr. Don Smith present the program. JHSSA's connection to Dr. Smith goes back many years to when he was researching the history of the Grand Theatre for his book. He was guest speaker about that subject at our AGM in 2000. We would also like to thank Julia Harrington for partnering with us to host the event at the historic Memorial Park Library.

The focus of Dr. Smith's HCW presentation will be Morris "Two-Gun" Cohen. The late Jack Switzer wrote about Cohen in *Discovery* and Cohen has been the subject of numerous books and documentaries. Dr. Smith's talk will aim to separate truth from legend in the

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Morris Cohen (2nd from the left) and friends, c 1912. JHSSA #656

President's Message

By Sandra Lipton



As an alumna and employee of the University of Calgary, I am thrilled that Deborah Yedlin has been appointed our next chancellor. She joins Muriel Kovitz as the fourth female and second Jewish chancellor. This appointment is reflective of the important contributions made by members of our Jewish community.

On March 29, 2018, the Parliament of Canada gave royal assent to an act declaring May as Canadian Jewish Heritage Month (<http://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/S-232/royal-assent>). The Canadian Jewish Heritage Month Act provides "an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the inspirational role that Jewish Canadians have played and continue to play in communities across the country."

It is therefore most fitting that the JHSSA presented two programs this May celebrating Jewish history in southern Alberta. On May 6, an enthusiastic crowd of over 60 Calgarians joined Harry Sanders on a walk through Calgary Jewish history in downtown Calgary; the next day JHSSA partnered with Calgary Jewish

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PLEASE SUPPORT JHSSA WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

"I did my share." Julius "Ziggy" Bleviss

Oral History Interview

The following life history of Ziggy Bleviss (1915–2004), largely in his own words, is based on the 2002 interview conducted by Bertha Gold for JHSSA. Bertha began the interview by asking Ziggy about his earliest memory.



Julius and Ida Bleviss, 1930s. Photographer: Lane's Studio. JHSSA #2246

I remember being with my dad. I don't remember my mother; I have a picture of her, I think in Poland according to my relatives. My present mother, or stepmother, she raised me from about 18 months. I was born in 1915. I remember where we lived in Radom. I remember when my grandfather had his store there. His name was Zecharia. They had a little store where they distributed milk and cheese. We lived in an apartment, two or three stories high. My grandfather lived further away. I remember going through a beautiful park to get there. I came to Calgary when I was eleven years old. I went to *cheder*. My mother passed away so young. In those days, if you got sick there was no medicine. The only time I had a picture, Etta Switzer gave it to me. My father remarried. He raised me. His name was Yankel Bleviss [pronounced Blayviss]. He drove what we might call a taxi here; there they used a horse and a fancy buggy. After a while he opened up a little confectionery. The apartments and everything was a lot different to what you see now. In a little corner, they had a little store—but they made a living.

We came over in 1927. There was Joey, Dinah, Art, myself, and my mother [Annie Bleviss]. We were met by Meyer Switzer and my dad. Dad and his father and *Meme* Chana [aunt Chana Bleviss, later Davidman] came in 1924. They came on the same boat as Leo Sheftel and his family. My father came about three years earlier and sent money to his wife. Our boat trip was slow. As kids, what did we know? We stopped in England and landed in Halifax and slept in a dormitory or something. Then we went on to Winnipeg by train. On that stopover some got off to get a chocolate bar or an orange. The next stop was Calgary. On the same train was Mrs. Hashman and one of her children. We went to Meyer's house. I don't know how long we stayed there. Then we rented an apartment on First Avenue North East; it was owned by Mrs. Gopman, Mrs. Sheftel's parents. In fact, the apartment still stands there.

I went to the small school in Riverside for a couple of days. You

were in German territory [there]. When they got a greenhorn, especially a Jew, they had to find out what they were like. They found out—at recess. They didn't get a chance to beat me up. I was a bugger in those days. There was a Jewish teacher there, I think she was lawyer Fradkin's wife [Sabine Nagler], and she made sure that I got transferred to Alexander School on Ninth Avenue East. We had ups and downs there. I stayed there 'til grade eight and then to Central High School. I didn't go to *cheder* [in Calgary, this refers to afternoon Hebrew school] but I had a lot of friends. Then I sold a lot of newspapers and got educated all over again. I can remember Nate Horodezky took me down to a place on Seventh Avenue where the Greyhound building used to be. They had a Jewish fellow there, Nate [Roth]. They sold them there and I bought five papers at three cents apiece. I sold them for five cents, ran home excited and said, "I made twenty five cents." I forgot that I paid fifteen cents. At that time Leo Sheftel was selling papers; Jack Singer was selling papers; Hymie [Singer] was selling papers. I sold papers at the Palliser. Then I finally got a corner at Second Street after school until about 1933.

I stopped when I started to work delivering bread for the City Bakery for Harry Goresht. We delivered bread to the army every morning to the Currie Barracks. I was there until about 1942, when I worked for Katchen Brothers. They were in the beef business. They got into the pork business and then changed the name to Calgary Packers. It was about 1945. Then they started getting into the export business for beef to England. The very first day I met Mire or Sam [Katchen], I can't remember, they naturally tried to get you acquainted with the beef. The first day we delivered beef on the truck, city deliveries. In those days, everything was done by hand. The beef was put on the truck by hand. When we started loading beef for the army, that was hard physical work. You couldn't have no chains, you didn't have nothing, just bull work. You cut a quarter of the beef and had to lug it on your shoulder. A quarter in the front and a quarter in the back. You tried to put a pad on your shoulders but they weren't very good. The grease used to get through to your shoulders. The first day—I could write a book about it. The shoulder was just practically blood, so I go home and wash up and put some salve on it. Next morning when I came back to work, Sam came to me and said, "I am surprised you are back. The next day people usually don't show up." That taught me a lesson. When I became foreman, you know, after a while, when I had to hire people I said, "I work hard. Whoever stays with me four hours, I will keep. The rest, no, because he wouldn't last." Katchen Brothers paid me every two weeks and I worked eight to ten or more hours, whatever was required. At first, I got \$36 a week. This was 1942. I was married in 1939 and it took a few years before I became foreman.

My father had a house on First Street. When I got married I lived in Riverside Apartments. There were a bunch of us hanging together: Harry Switzer, Sarah Switzer, Joe Kline, and myself in the crew. We used to go to Bowness on Sunday. We didn't have a car. We walked up the hill. We had neighbours, the Busheikins. My wife

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"I did my share." Julius "Ziggy" Bleviss oral history interview

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Julius Ziggy Bleviss (to the immediate left of the memorial) at the unveiling of the military cenotaph at the Erlton Cemetery, September 1977. Left to right, Rabbi Louis Tuchman, Rabbi Abraham Postone, Harry Isenstein, Ziggy Bleviss, Martha Cohen and Tanya Sklar. JHSSA #652

Sarah [Rosenthal] worked in Hurov's grocery and in the City Hall Market too. I worked at Katchen Brothers 38½ years until I retired. You started as a truck driver, then a foreman, then a purchasing agent, quality control man; then you get kicked out the door.

I'll tell you what. Mire Katchen was in the army—both were conscripted. With the business as it was, both could not be away so Mire was in the army and Sam looked after the place. His father was still alive then. In those days Bob Smolkin was there. It was like a family. Mire had a horse. He was friendly with Harry Veiner. When he had time off from the army he would come and inspect everything going on. Isaac Hoffman was laying bricks for an expansion. Mire inspected everything. He could tell you how many bricks were laid! It was hard work you can't deny that. Later government made sure packages were smaller and other things.

Bertha continues the interview with questions about his social life and family.

I had four children. This is hard. I had two girls; I lost them both. I still have both boys. Bella was the oldest, then Morris and Joe and the little one [Linda]. We lived on Eighth Street and Fourth Avenue. The kids went to school in Riverside.

We still kept our old friends. I was in AZA and B'nai Brith. I was an advisor to AZA in 1954 and used to take the kids out to Sylvan Lake. Then in 1974, I became a Chevra Kadisha member and worked there for many years. I think I did a good job. When I started, the late Harry Sheftel said, "Take it over and I will help you." He is still helping me, bless his soul. In those days, the people who ran it didn't give a care for the future. When I took over, on 30 Avenue and 29 Street there were houses and we started buying houses and tearing them down and had to get a permit from the City. I was working for twenty years. It was a lot of work, but a lot of land was purchased over time.

The interview contains a lengthy description of the process of purchasing homes to expand the cemetery.

We purchased a lot. You get these new people and the first thing they say is, "Let's sell the land. We can make money. People can build an apartment." We said, "No, the land is for the cemetery only." You can see we are now working on it. We bought on 37 Street SW and we are developing it. [Ziggy goes on to describe the work on the new cemetery grounds.] I retired from the volunteer work in 1994. I was president for 20 years. I figured that is enough. I did my share. I still volunteer for the casinos for the Jewish organizations and in a quiet way still for the Chevra Kadisha. I belong to the Beth Tzedec and help them. I think I accomplished a lot. I think I have done my share.

A Colourful Life

Continued from Page 1

fascinating life of Morris Cohen and will highlight his western Canadian Chinese connections. It was Cohen's early "partnership" with the Canadian Chinese community that led him to play a role in 20th century China.

Dr. Smith's illustrated talk will take place after the HCW guided Secrets of Chinatown tour which will take place from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. From **3:30 to 3:45 pm**, before his presentation, Dr. Smith will set the stage with a short sketch of Calgary in 1916, the year Morris Cohen was actually located in our city.

Harry Sanders, JHSSA board member and frequent guest speaker, will also be participating in HCW. His guided walk in downtown Calgary on Monday, July 30 at 6:00 pm will focus on the buildings that once housed important partnerships. Further information about Historic Calgary Week and an updated schedule will be available at www.chinookcountry.org

Archives Update

By R. Kerr

Our 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 focuses on formally organizing and processing the documents and items that have been donated to the Jay and 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 31 organizational fonds (see list below), which means that we have assessed the material for relevance to the JHSSA mandate; examined each item and document to determine its function within the parent organization; identified any conservation or preservation issues for the material, addressing them if urgent or flagging them for future attention; removed staples and pins; placed the material in file folders or other housing as appropriate; and written a formal description of the material. This description includes an overall administrative history of the organization.

The creation of these administrative histories occasionally poses interesting challenges. For example, the "title" of an organizational fonds is the name under which the organization was officially known at the time of the writing (for an extant organization) or when it ceased operations. In some cases, such as "Chevra Kadisha of Calgary", this is completely uncomplicated; it has always been "Chevra Kadisha of Calgary". In other cases an organization changes its name at some point in its history, and this can be noted in a simple sentence such as "The Calgary Jewish Family Loan Association was incorporated as the Polish-Jewish Family Loan Association in January 1932." Sometimes organizations merge, and the resultant administrative history opens with a sentence like "Calgary Jewish Academy...was created in 1986 by the merger of the Calgary Hebrew School (later known as the Charles Waterman Talmud Torah) founded in 1912, and the I.L. Peretz School, founded in 1927." Other organizations, however, have more complicated evolutions, and in those cases it can take several paragraphs for the administrative history to draw the full picture. A clear example of this is seen in what is now Calgary Jewish Federation, which had its earliest beginnings in a community council formed in 1911, continued through the establishment of the House of Israel Association (1929) and the Joint Jewish Administrative Office (1952), re-established itself as Calgary Jewish Community Council (c1956), and became Calgary Jewish Federation in 2011.

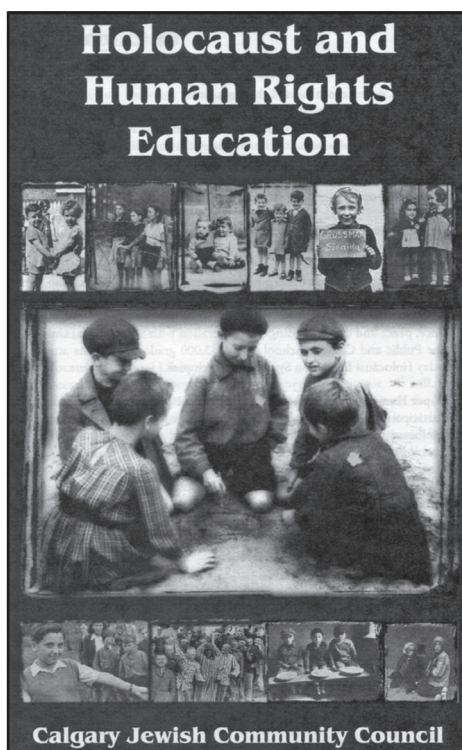
While our Archives Backlog Project has so far only processed organizational fonds, the DHCP grant will also allow JHSSA to deal with personal records received from individuals and families. In these cases, instead of an administrative history, the formal description contains what's called a biographical sketch. To some extent the sketch is created from information found in existing subject files and personal or family histories, but it is often fleshed out with details learned from the holdings themselves. This raises an interesting point regarding the way material is donated to an archives or historical organization. There is often a tendency on the part of donors to sort through and "weed" the material before it's given away, especially when dealing with the personal accumulation of someone who has passed on, like a parent.

The intention is usually simply to reduce the amount of "uninteresting" material, or things that are thought unimportant. From an archival perspective, however, there is often value in keeping at least a sample of everything an individual amassed, since it may speak to the wider interests of the individual involved. Not long ago, after the passing of a long-time community member, the family generously gave JHSSA a box of material reflecting their parents' involvement with various Jewish organizations. But we later found out that other material, regarding their hobbies as well as their involvement with non-Jewish organizations, had been donated elsewhere. The long-term implication of this is that anyone doing research into the family, depending on their starting point, would only learn the narrow range reflected in the material held by whichever archives, not even realizing that there were other avenues to explore. If the material had been donated in its entirety to a single organization, with a request that material not specific to that organization's mandate be passed on to a more appropriate repository, the original repository would know

the full range of information to include in its biographical sketch and could keep one or two representative items, attaching a note for researchers that the bulk of the material regarding whichever other subjects is held by whichever other repository (referred to in formal archival description as "Associated Records").

In addition, aside from ensuring a full picture of the life and interests of the individual or family, material that a donor might consider unimportant to the "personal" picture could well fill a gap in the archives' overall holdings. JHSSA, like most historical repositories, only has what people have given us, which means that some records are much fuller than others.

That being said, different archives have different preferences regarding the receipt of material donations; when in doubt, a phone call or email will quickly clarify an institution's policy. In some cases, it may be possible to arrange for an on-site evaluation to help make such determinations.



Cover of a brochure about Holocaust and Human Rights Education programs offered by Calgary Jewish Community Council. c. 2009

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Students Focus on Local History

Junior high students at the Calgary Jewish Academy were offered an elective course called History of Jewish Calgary for their winter term. The class met two hours a week for 15 weeks. The aim of the course as outlined by teacher Mira Feldman was to learn about archives and historical research, to increase the students' knowledge of the local Jewish community, and to develop an appreciation of the contributions made by their school's alumni. The group discussed all the elements that make up community from synagogues and schools to businesses and food. Students were asked to examine such key issues as the importance of researching our past, the beginnings of the Jewish community, the role lay leaders have played in the community's development, and the ways in which the community continues to flourish.

Students conducted research using articles published in the past issues of *Discovery*. They were asked to choose a site/person/theme of interest to them that they would research and then write an article. The course included a guided visit to the Glenbow Archives with historian and JHSSA board member Harry Sanders in November. Harry then presented a guest lecture in January and helped guide their research. Student presentations were made at the end of January.

Teacher Mira Feldman, who created the curriculum, relates that the intent of the course was to help students appreciate the rich history of our small yet vibrant community. She feels that students who completed this course certainly understand the impact they will make in the community for years to come.



Calgary Jewish Academy students Julia Rosenblum and Anna Sanders. Photo courtesy of CJA.

JHSSA has received the illustrated essay created by students Julia Rosenblum and Anna Sanders about Calgary synagogues with a short introduction about the organized Calgary Jewish community. The essay contains some personal comments by the authors.

Julia Rosenblum writes:

One of my favorite things about being part of my Jewish community is just the feeling, being part of something bigger than yourself. It is amazing to feel like you are not alone when it comes to being attacked because of your religion or just feeling like you have someone to talk to about that stuff. I enjoy participating in these events not only because they are enjoyable, but also to meet new Jewish people like me, and to learn and understand what they've gone through.

Anna Sanders writes about one of the institutions she researched:

I'd say my absolute favorite place that I love going to that is connected to the Jewish community would be the little synagogue in Heritage Park. When I walk into the building I just feel so comfortable and peaceful. It is such a cute and safe environment, where you'll know you'll be accepted for who you are. I love going there with my family. I know that even for non-Jews who want to learn about our history, it is such an easy place to go to, and you automatically feel accepted.

It is encouraging to learn that students are given an opportunity to connect directly with our community's history. We hope that not only will this experience deepen their commitment to the organizations that have enriched our communal life, but that it will also give them an appreciation for the importance of historical preservation and research. We look forward to hearing about more such projects in the future.

Archives Update

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Organizational fonds completed as of April 2018: 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, Chabad-Lubavitch of Alberta, Chevra Kadisha of Calgary, Chi Omega Chi Sorority, Congregation House of Jacob, Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel (including Akiva Academy), Emuna Sorority, Hillel Calgary, 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, Mem Zadick Gimmel Sorority, National Council of Jewish Women, Shaarey Tzedec Congregation, and Temple B'nai Tikvah.

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.

- "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. »

Past JHSSA Events

A Closer Look at the Klondike Gold Rush



Betsy Jameson. Photo courtesy of Betsy Jameson. Photographer: Dave Brown

Sometimes (actually, rarely) interesting programs just fall into place without any great effort on our part. This spring we were fortunate to have been contacted by Rick Karp, president of the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and president of the Jewish Cultural Society of Yukon, about the possibility of hosting a travelling exhibit about Jewish involvement in the Klondike gold rush. Calgary also has a connection to the gold rush. The Joseph Barron family lived in Dawson City before moving to Calgary to be with their sons, John and Abraham, who had graduated high school in Dawson and had moved to Calgary after finishing law school in the U.S.A. This was new information for Karp, and it was not included in the exhibit.

The exhibit was first launched in May 2016 in Whitehorse and was displayed in Vancouver in the fall of 2017. JHSSA was delighted at the opportunity to present the exhibit in Calgary, but since the JCC lobby was needed for community events in early April, we arranged with Temple B'nai Tikvah to host the exhibit there first and it moved to the JCC on April 23. By an even greater stroke of luck, it just so happened that JHSSA board member Betsy Jameson had done research into the gold rushes throughout North America and she kindly offered to present on the topic for JHSSA. Betsy's illustrated lunch time presentation on April 30 provided a wider context for the Yukon exhibit.

JHSSA would like to thank Rick Karp, Temple B'nai Tikvah, the JCC, and Betsy Jameson for helping to arrange this special event. The exhibit continued on to Edmonton and returned to Whitehorse in June for a special visit by the Israeli consul.



Joseph and Elizabeth Barron with grandson William shortly after their move to Calgary from Dawson. JHSSA #1060



Trudy Cowan (far right) presenting Sandra Lipton and Agi Romer Segal with a copy of her book for the JHSSA library. Photographer: Richard Bronstein. JHSSA #4106.19

A Special Book Launch

A book launch is always an exciting event, but the May 7 launch of Trudy Cowan's children's book, *Quarantine: Keep Out!* had special significance for JHSSA. Trudy has served on the JHSSA board and has often offered her expert advice. The book itself tells a story that is part of our local history. Trudy chose to mark the centenary of the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918–19 by retelling a simple episode of how the epidemic affected the Jewish community of the Montefiore Colony. The Montefiore Institute (now in Heritage Park) was used as an isolation hospital during the epidemic and three people were quarantined there. The local doctor, Dr. A.H. Silverman, cared for the patients. From this historical episode and from her intimate knowledge of the history of the colony, Trudy has woven a touching children's story. At the launch, Trudy spoke about the larger context of the flu epidemic. Illustrator Maria Muszynski described the process of creating the soft charcoal drawings that enrich the book. Original artwork from the book was presented to the Ullman and Levant families, both descendants of Montefiore Colony pioneers, for their support of the project. A copy of the book was donated to Calgary Jewish Federation and to the JHSSA library. Over 80 people attended the event.

JHSSA Sunday Genealogy Workshop Series with Ken Drabinsky

JHSSA genealogy chair Ken Drabinsky facilitated a series of Sunday workshops this past winter and spring. In addition to general help with family research and advice about helpful software, Ken's sessions looked into issues in Sephardic history, genealogy, and DNA. Participants were fortunate to learn from guest presenters Dr. Ken Brown, Lorraine Doig, and Fernando Ferrira. The series was co-sponsored by Temple B'nai Tikvah. We hope Ken will be able to continue with the Sunday workshops next fall. His hard work is much appreciated. Please contact the JHSSA office if you would like to recommend a specific topic for a workshop.

Looking Forward, Looking Back

**Muriel Kovitz, C.M. LL.D., University of Calgary's
first woman chancellor**

In April, University of Calgary named Deborah Yedlin as its 14th chancellor. An Edmonton native, Yedlin is best known to the Calgary public for her contributions as a business columnist for the *Calgary Herald* and the CBC. She was co-chair of the 2016 United Way campaign, and also served on the board of Calgary Jewish Federation. Her appointment comes 40 years after Muriel Libin Kovitz completed her term as chancellor (1974–78). At her installation ceremony in January 1975, Kovitz stressed the importance of the senate in ensuring the relevance of the university. At the time, much was made of Kovitz being the first woman university chancellor in Alberta and the sixth in Canada. Kovitz stated in a *Calgary Herald* interview (January 17, 1975), "I tend to see people as people and I find it gratifying that I have been viewed in that light—not as a man or a woman, but as a person. I just happen to be a woman who is a chancellor." The article goes on to state that she does not plan to re-decorate her office. She came to the role with an impressive record of community and university volunteer service. Within the Jewish community, she was known for her leadership role in National Council of Jewish Women and Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. The ceremonial University of Calgary mace was donated by Muriel and Dr. David Kovitz in 1979. That year, she also established the Muriel Kovitz prize, awarded to the top graduate student. She was invested as a member of the Order of Canada (1977) and received an honorary doctorate from the university in 1981.



Muriel Kovitz, 1975. Source: Dave Spindel. JHSSA #1626



JHSSA tribute card image of Mel Nagler. JHSSA #1704

JHSSA Tribute Cards to Mark Any Occasion

It is easy to support the work of JHSSA by sending our unique tribute cards. Tribute cards donations are an important supplement to our revenue, and they also increase public awareness about JHSSA. These cards, which feature historic photographs from our collection, can be ordered with a personalized message. Cards are available for a minimum of \$10. A "chai" card for \$18 is very popular to mark special occasions. Larger donations are earmarked for specific purposes. A donation of \$36 goes towards providing copies of our publication *A Joyful Harvest* to every bar/bat mitzvah in the city. A donation of \$54 is directed to the Jay Joffe Memorial Program fund and a \$72 donation subsidizes transcription of oral histories. A certificate in our Book of Heritage, which is on display at the JCC, is available for a donation of \$100. The honouree is sent a copy of the page.

We thank all those who have supported our card fund over the decades. We are grateful to our volunteer, Jackie Busheikin, who takes orders and mails out the cards. Her effort makes it possible to keep our costs low and frees up valuable staff time.

Cards can be ordered via our website www.jhssa.org or from Jackie at jackie.busheikin@gmail.com or 403-281-8235. Packages of five blank cards are also available from our office for \$45. Tax receipts are provided for all donations.

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- ☐ Sustainer – \$250 ☐ Family/Corporate/Institutions – \$45
☐ Benefactor – \$125 ☐ Individual – \$25
☐ 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

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Do not send cash through the mail

2018 Membership Update

Thank you to all those who have renewed their membership or have become members since our last issue.

Sustainers: Robert and Sydney Kalef

Benefactors: Jonathan Ansell, Noel and Lil Hershfield, Delores Corenblum Rosen

Patrons: Larry and Deborah Katz, Darlene Switzer-Foster

Members: Sarah Bleviss, Eva Falla, Mel and Deana Fishman, Toby Friedman, Jason Nisenson, Roberta Sheps, Bev Silverstone

JHSSA NEWS

Save the AGM Date

Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the JCC

Please note that our 28th Annual General Meeting will be held on a Thursday instead of our traditional Monday evening AGM programs to accommodate this year's special guest speaker. Mark your calendars to make sure you do not miss this event. Detailed information about the program will be included in our next issue. We are still collecting names of those in our community who have turned 80 since our last AGM. Please contact our office if you know of any such celebrants.

Building Community Tour featured in 2018 Jane's Walk

On May 6, JHSSA director Harry Sanders reprised the Building Community tour which he led for JHSSA during 2017 Historic Calgary Week. The recent tour was part of this year's Jane's Walk and attracted over 60 participants. If you missed Harry's guided walk, you can follow the route from the Building Community tour on our website at www.jhssa.org

The History of the Lethbridge Jewish Community

JHSSA's Roberta Kerr has been invited by the Galt Museum and Archives to talk about the history of the Lethbridge Jewish community. Her presentation will take place on Thursday, August 23 at the Galt Museum. We hope to reprise her presentation as part of JHSSA's 2019 programming.

President's Message

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Federation to sponsor Trudy Cowan's presentation of her newly published children's book on the 1918–19 influenza epidemic and its impact on a Jewish family living in a Jewish farming community. Additionally, at the end of April in conjunction with the visiting exhibit on the Jewish experience in the Yukon gold rush, our board member and historian Dr. Betsy Jameson presented an engaging talk on the Jewish involvement in the North American gold rushes. We appreciate these fascinating and informative presentations by current and past board members.

The new Canadian Jewish Heritage Month Act speaks to the core function of the JHSSA: collecting, preserving, promoting, and celebrating local Jewish history so that current and future generations are informed about the important contributions of Jewish members of the southern Alberta community. As a self-funded organization, we rely on your support to ensure that we have an enduring record of our history. I want to especially acknowledge the recent generous donations from the Hanson family and The Alvin and Mona Libin Foundation.

The hard work of our accomplished office staff Katie Baker, Agi Romer Segal and Roberta Kerr is also vital to our success. We welcome Carol Hinatusu as our temporary office administrator during Katie's maternity leave.

Please mark Sunday, August 5 on your calendars for our Historic Calgary Week program, featuring Dr. Don Smith talking about Morris "Two-Gun" Cohen. In August, we are sponsoring our first book discussion, moderated by Susan Podlog; details are in this issue. Please also note our AGM this year will be on Thursday, October 25.

Wishing you all a warm and relaxing summer.

Book Discussion:

Double Threat

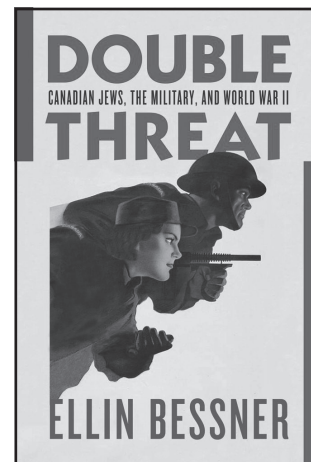
by **Ellin Bessner**

facilitated by **Susan Podlog**

Tuesday, August 21, 2018, 7:00 pm at the JCC

RSVP to JHSSA by Thursday, August 16

For the 2017 Jewish Book Festival, JHSSA hosted author Ellin Bessner who presented an engaging discussion about her then soon-to-be published book about challenges Jews faced in the Canadian military in World War II and the contributions they made. Ellin's presentation was very well received and most of those attending pre-ordered her book. The book came out in March 2018. JHSSA member Susan Podlog found the book to be so important to the Canadian Jewish experience that she has kindly offered to facilitate a book discussion this summer. Susan thinks that readers would be interested in the book's depiction of "the valour, the trauma, the willingness to risk life and limb, and the impressive resilience of the Canadian Jewish men and women who served." She invites everyone to read the book and to discuss personal impressions and the significance of such a book, and also to share stories of relatives who participated in the war. The book is available for order on amazon.ca and a copy of the book is available in the JHSSA library.



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