

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

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Celebrating Our Tenth Historical Year

FALL 2000



Calgary Jew Decorated in France, 1915

Corporal Louis Zuidema of the 10th Battalion is shown here (at left) waiting to be decorated for bravery under fire at St. Julien in the April 1915 second battle of Ypres. The Calgary Jew received the Distinguished Conduct Medal from Brigadier General Sir Edward Alderson near the French battlefield.

Two weeks later at Hyde Park in London, Zuidema was again presented his DCM by King George V.

Louis Zuidema was the oldest of 12 children born into a large Dutch Jewish family. He emigrated to Calgary in 1910; three brothers, Charles, Willy and Simon Zuidema followed soon after. He worked in the Crowsnest Pass coal mines, and then began work at the Burns meat packing plant in Calgary.

Louis Zuidema joined the 10th Battalion, made up mainly of Calgarians, in 1914. He was wounded twice, but survived the war.

His younger brother, Simon Zuidema, was not as lucky. He enlisted in Calgary in 1916, and joined Louis and the 10th Battalion in time for the Vimy Ridge campaign in April, 1917. Simon Zuidema was one of nearly 3,600 Canadian soldiers to die in the battle.

Louis visited his family's home in Holland before being returned to Calgary, and met his future wife, Henderika. They were later married in Calgary, where Zuidema had resumed his job at the Burns plant.

The veteran was able to raise enough money to open a grocery, the Empress Store, on Ninth Avenue East. In 1929 he sold the business to the Sheftel family. Louis Zuidema died in 1967.

His son, Jack Zuidema, born in 1922, served with the Canadian Navy on convoy escorts in the north Atlantic during World War II. He later became active with the regiment that succeeded his

October 16th AGM to be "A Grand Evening"

The Grand Theater, long connected with Calgary's Jewish heritage, will be the program focus of this year's JHSSA annual general meeting. The event will be on October 16, 2000, at the Calgary Jewish Centre.

Speaker will be Dr. Donald Smith, a professor of history at the University of Calgary. Dr. Smith has done extensive research on the Grand Theater, owned for several decades by the Barron family, and is leading a fight to prevent demolition of the Lougheed Building, which housed the Grand, a vaudeville stage and live theater venue before it became a movie house.

The meeting will also include society reports and the presentation of heritage certificates to local Jewish pioneers.

Please plan to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served. "A Grand Evening" begins at 7:30 p.m., October 16th.

father and uncle's 10th Battalion, the Calgary Highlanders. Jack Zuidema and his wife Goldie still live in Calgary.

Louis's brother, Charles Zuidema, was active in the Calgary Jewish community, and was the father of Lillian Zuidema.

Sources: Jack Zuidema, Lillian Zuidema. Photo - Jack Zuidema.

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*This issue is sponsored by B'Nai Brith Calgary Lodge No. 816.
Their generosity and support is greatly appreciated.*

"New" Books on Canadian Jewish History in the JHSSA Library

By Agi Romer-Segal

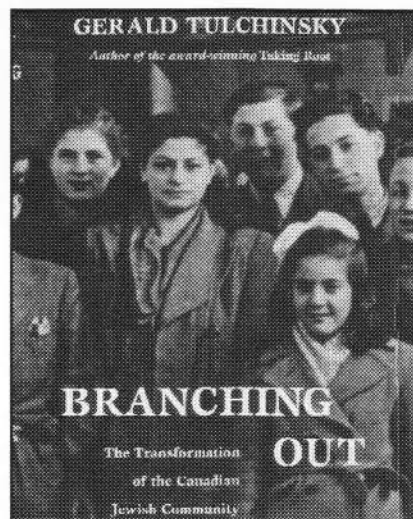
The JHSSA's Harry B. Cohen Genealogical Library contains most of the "classics" of Canadian Jewish historical research by such scholars as Sack, Rosenberg and Kage. In recent years these basic works have been augmented by the work of a new generation of scholars who have used the earlier studies to delve deeper into specific issues or to update the development of Canadian Jewry at the close of the 20th century. These newer works listed here may be borrowed by JHSSA members. They all make a worthwhile read and provide insight into the unique history of the Jewish community in Canada.

Social Discredit: Antisemitism, Social Credit and the Jewish Response by Janine Stigel, 1999. This well-researched study is a must-read for anyone not familiar with Alberta's Social Credit history. It not only traces the roots and development of antisemitism within the Social Credit movement, but also tracks the evolution of the reaction and strategies of organized Canadian Jewry through the Canadian Jewish Congress (C.J.C.). This book is especially relevant for Alberta, but it is also very helpful in understanding the development of the role of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

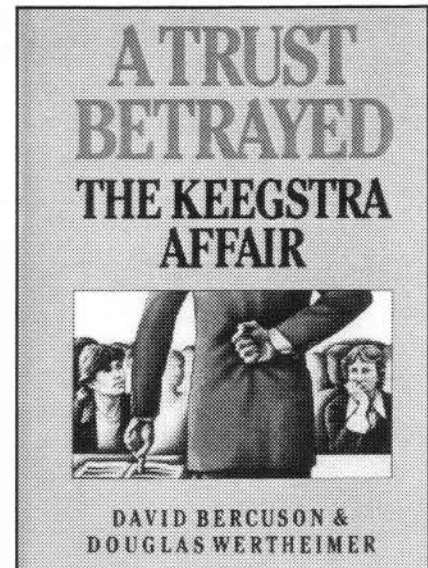
A Trust Betrayed: the Keegstra Affair by David Bercuson and Douglas Wertheimer, 1985. This book picks up almost where the Stigel book leaves off, for it examines the roots of Keegstra's antisemitic world view, partly based on his strong connections to Social Credit. This

book is also very well researched and asks tough questions about the role of all the institutions involved in the affair (the school administration, school board, A.T.A.). It is interesting to see the Canadian Jewish Congress response, given the lessons learned from the earlier struggles against Social Credit propaganda.

Branching Out: the Transformation of the Canadian Jewish Community by Gerald Tulchinsky, 1998. This book continues Tulchinsky's earlier work, *Taking Root* (1992) and covers the period between 1920 to the 1990s. It can serve to put such issues as Congress' battle against Social Credit



propaganda and Keegstra into a wider context. This work weaves literary material, personal memoir and biography in with statis-

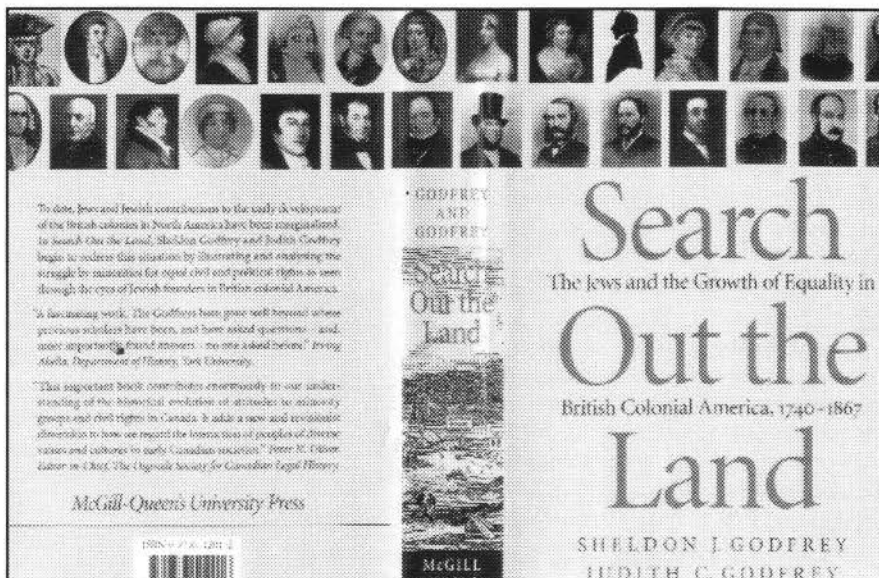


tical and documentary material to depict the broad canvas of the modern Canadian Jewish experience.

Search Out the Land: the Jews and the Growth of Equality in British Colonial America 1940-1867 by Sheldon J. Godfrey and Judith Godfrey, 1995. This study details the Jewish presence in pre-Confederation Canada. It is especially interesting in relation to the other works listed above because it outlines the civil and political rights guaranteed Jews as they spread across the continent. These were the rights that C.J.C. learned must be evoked and defended when it was faced with anti-semitic incidents.

Jewish Life and Times: Vol. VII 1998 Women's Voices; Personal Recollections. This volume was published by the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada to mark its 30th anniversary. It aims to present a unique view of the development of Western Canadian (Manitoba) Jewish society by presenting excerpts from oral history interviews from 33 women conducted over the past 30 years. These are arranged by topic in eight chapters—education, the work force, courtship and marriage, integration, building a community, country living and aging. This presentation offers insight both into the development of the community and the lives of the individual women.

Two-Gun Cohen. A biography by Daniel S. Levy, 1997. The colourful tale of Morris Cohen was featured in Jack Switzer's article about Cohen's Calgary connection in the Autumn 1997 issue of *Discovery*. This new biography undertakes the difficult task of separating the facts from the bountiful myths about this intriguing character and his involvement with the Chinese army. It is an enjoyable adventure and an interesting way to learn some 20th century history.



1947 House of Israel Drawings

By Jack Switzer

Unique drawings of the House of Israel have been sent to the JHSSA archives by former Calgary Bev Katzin Walker. Her father, Max Katzin, was a member of a 1947 committee trying to complete the building.

The drawings are part of a brochure that contains significant information about the building's finances and uses, and includes a strongly-worded appeal for funds.

Fund-raising for a "Jewish Community Building" began in 1926; land for the facility, at 18th Avenue and Centre Street South, was purchased in 1928 for \$7,600. The "House of Israel Association" was incorporated in 1929, and construction began the following year.

Only the lower level was completed when community use began in 1931. The Talmud Torah (Hebrew School) moved into classrooms in the east wing, and the main area provided a kitchen and social facilities. Beth Israel congregation began using the building in the mid-1930s.

The Depression, and competition for community resources from the nearby I.L. Peretz Institute (opened in 1929) prevented further construction. World War II further delayed the building's completion, but once the war was over the Association's leadership was anxious to finish the complex.

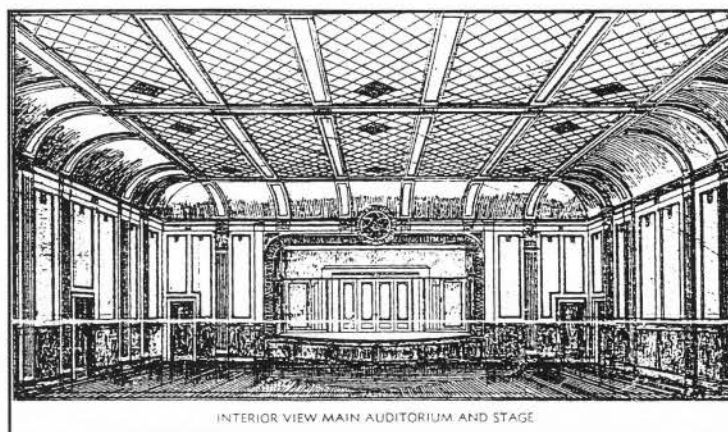
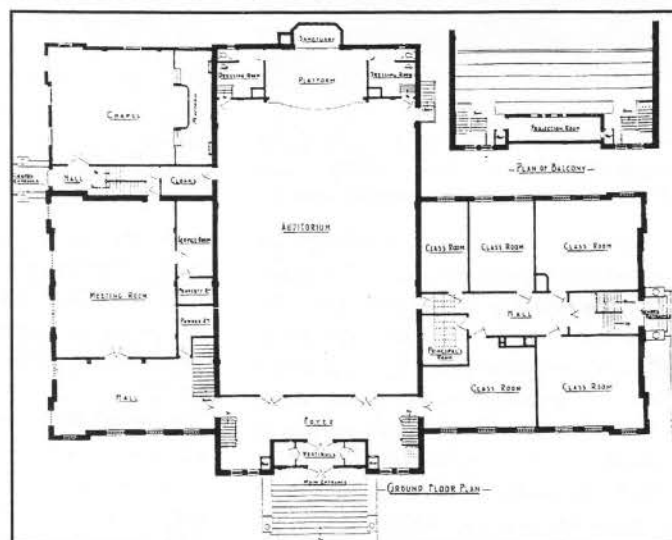
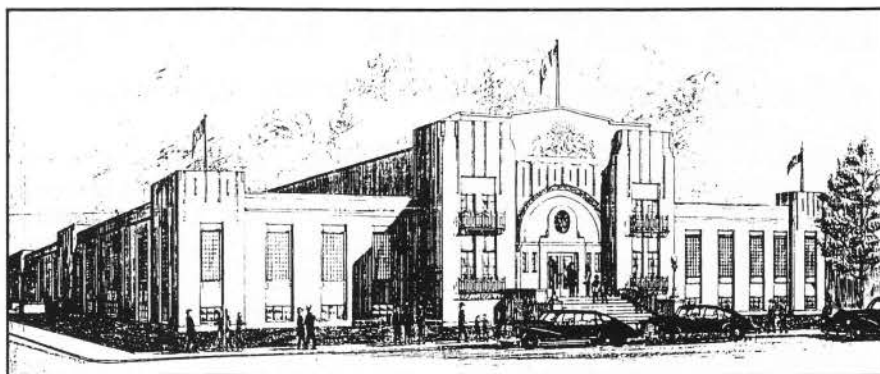
The 1947 campaign may not have reached its goal of \$100,000. The upper level was opened in 1949, but it did not include the chapel noted on the brochure's floor plan. Nor was the exterior as ornate as indicated in the drawing.

In 1959 the Talmud Torah moved from the House of Israel building to its own facility on 66th Avenue SW (now Glenmore Trail), and was followed a year later by Beth Israel, which built a new synagogue next door to the school.

The House of Israel building stood largely unused for the next 20 years, in use mainly for community offices and for storage, as well as for occasional meetings and social events. (The 1959 construction of Shaarey Tzedek synagogue behind the building also reduced use.)

The House of Israel was vacated when the current Jewish Community Centre opened in 1979. It was recently gutted and converted into upscale condominiums.

Sources: Bev Katzin Walker, Blythe, Ontario; JHSSA Archives.



HERE IS YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY BUILDING

Let Us Finish It Today
in One Final Drive!

IT CAN BE DONE NOW!
Let's Make It a Reality.

Remembering Jaffe's

Book and Music Exchange

Jaffe's Book Store (1925–1979) Recalled

By Don McLeod

(The following article by Toronto writer and former Calgarian Don McLeod appeared in *Canadian Notes & Queries*, No. 57, Spring, 2000, and is reprinted with his permission. It has been slightly reduced in length.

JHSSA archival material shows that Jaffe began selling used books in 1918, converting his used furniture store business into a bookstore. He retired from the used book business in 1957. Jaffe's Book and Music Exchange stood at 225 Eighth Avenue East for over 60 years.)

Bill Todd was usually ahead until we pulled him back by the jacket. Then Don Hight would try to run past until Bill elbowed him in the gut. We were obnoxious—three howling 14-year-old boys fighting and racing at full speed down the sidewalk of Eighth Avenue in Calgary during a typical Saturday morning in the spring of 1971. Our objective was to be first to reach the mother lode—the comic book bins at Jaffe's Book and Music Exchange. Jaffe's was located at 225 Eighth Avenue S.E. and was at that time the largest used bookstore between Toronto and Vancouver.

We'd arrive at the big plate-glass display windows out of breath. The cheap books displayed on tables outside the front entrance were ignored as we

slipped into the shop and immediately turned to the right, making a beeline for the comics section. A big, handwritten sign proclaiming 'Comics 1/2 Price' was displayed above tables where hundreds of comic books were stacked. These stacks, as well as other comic stashes stored in back rooms, constituted a treasure trove for any young collector. And as comic books in those days were generally priced at 15 cents new, half price meant the going rate at Jaffe's was usually only eight cents per issue, a very reasonable proposition.

The three of us stood or sat, sometimes for hours, pawing through the stacks. Don was partial to *The Fantastic Four*, while Bill collected *Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos*. I dithered about what to collect but finally settled on *Tales of Suspense*, which from issue 100 (April 1968) became *Captain America*. We let out yelps when we found a rarity, and automatically became possessive or envious depending on who found what. When we did emerge from the store, with hands filthy from dust and ink, we'd brag or argue about our finds as we walked to the bus stop, vowing to make even greater acquisitions the next Saturday.

Jaffe's Book and Music Exchange was probably the longest-established bookstore, new or used, in Calgary's history.

It was named for its first proprietor, Shaie Jaffe (1878–1975). Jaffe was born in Lithuania and moved with his family to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where his father became chief rabbi. He came to Calgary in 1912 and established the book business by 1925. As a learned man and ardent Zionist, Shaie Jaffe became a leading member of Calgary's Jewish community. He was a founder and president of the Hebrew school, and as chairman of the education committee acted as examiner of the students. Shaie Jaffe and his wife Leah (Geffen) had three children; Leah died in 1934, and in later years Jaffe married Rose Rabinovitch (1889–1979), who was active in the community in the Ladies' Aid Society. After the Second World War, Shaie Jaffe sold Jaffe's Book and Music Exchange for \$45,000 to a consortium that by the late 1970s was represented by Hymie Belzberg, Louis J. Ryder and Leo Aizenman.

As I look back more than 20 years and think of Jaffe's, what do I remember? Well, when I knew it Jaffe's wasn't located in the best part of town. The Queen's and Imperial hotels were just down the street, near the intersection of Eighth Avenue and Macleod Trail. It wasn't unusual to see drunken street brawls in front of those establishments, even in daytime. Jaffe's immediate neighbours included a variety of seedy used furniture and 'antique' shops, pawnshops, and at least one army surplus outlet. As for the shop itself, my memories are mostly sense impressions: the dryness of the air, the dust and grime, the faint, sweet smell of rotting leather, the creak of floorboards, the fans whirring on a hot summer's day. And, of course, I remember Samuel Osherow (1911–). Sam was the gruff general manager of Jaffe's. He was tall, slim, with heavy glasses and a shock of curly white hair. His most distinctive feature was a high-pitched, squeaky voice. Sam sounded like Rusty the Rooster to us kids, and we used to try to imitate him on occasion. I never knew the names of the other staff members at Jaffe's although I remember them as being generally middle-aged, learned and unfailingly polite.

I sometimes wonder why these people were so polite and helpful to a gangly kid who spent hours looking for



Jaffe's Book and Music Exchange, at 225 Eighth Avenue SE in Calgary, was the largest used bookstore between Toronto and Vancouver. Photo credit – City of Calgary Archives

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Jaffe Book Store

Continued from Page 4

comic books, on which he spent maybe a dollar or two per week. I see now that they knew there was some chance that a young comic collector might grow up to become a book collector, and that was good for business. They were correct. My attention soon started to drift away from the comic books and onto the other stock in the store.

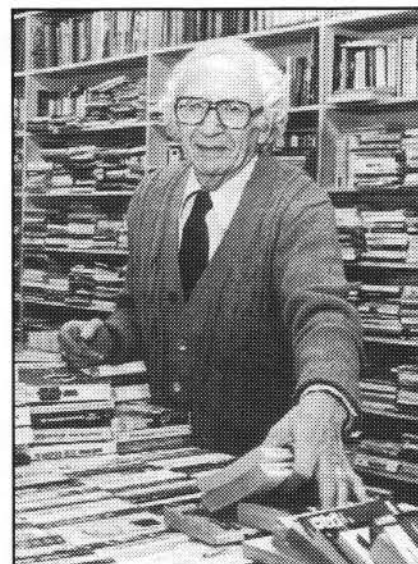
Jaffe's had a large general stock, with one or two specialty lines. The 'Music Exchange' part of the store was directly to the left inside the front entrance and consisted of a few musical instruments, stacks of sheet music, and dusty 78 and 33-1/3 rpm records. This took up only a small corner of the store, and never seemed to generate much interest (although legend has it that in the store's early days Wilf Carter bought his first guitar strings there). A much more lucrative sideline was new and used school texts and technical books—Jaffe's had the largest stock in the province. The bulk of the store was made up of tall bookshelves lining the walls. These were crammed with literature and non-fiction arranged in sections. Low tables and shelving units filled the remaining space, and were filled with cheap paperbacks, the comic book bins, and a large selection of magazines. Jaffe's was one of the few bookstores in town that had magazine back issues, not only of standard fare such as *Life* or *National Geographic* but more specialized titles like *Scientific American* and *Popular Mechanics*. And, of course, there were stacks of soft-core porn magazines hidden away on the lower shelves, titles like *Cavalier* and *Swank* ('Hey, you kids! Stay away from there!')

I still own my comic book collection, as well as several books I purchased at Jaffe's. In the eighth grade Miss Elizabeth Thrasher, my English teacher at Colonel Macleod Junior High School, introduced me to the adventure yarns of Richard Halliburton. I was crazy about Halliburton and bought all of his titles that I could find at Jaffe's, including a beautiful copy of the first edition of *New Worlds to Conquer* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1929) that I purchased for \$5. And when I was 17 I bought an inscribed copy of Irving Layton's *Collected Poems* (Toronto: McClelland & Stew-

art, 1965) for \$3. I remember the elderly woman at the till asking, with a twinkle in her eye, if I like Layton's work and encouraging me to read more of it.

As I grew older I roamed more freely in the shop, looking at all sorts of books and even buying a few. I was sometimes allowed into areas that were generally closed to the public. There were storerooms at the back of the shop, filled with boxes of books that hadn't made it to the shelves yet. These storerooms also had staircases to the basement and to the office. Sam had a small office at the back of the shop in a loft that was above bookcase level. It was constructed in such a way that he could sit up there and see the entire shop but be hidden from view by piles of books. I was only allowed to see the office once or twice, and remember it as cramped and filled with business papers and very old (and perhaps rare) books.

Jaffe's basement was remarkable. I was allowed into the basement several times, although it was generally off limits. I didn't like spending much time there because it was creepy. It was a huge warren of uneven passages and rooms, clammy and sometimes dark, absolutely packed with books and magazines. Patrick Tivy made an arch comment in his 1979 article on Jaffe's that '[the basement] is not so much a storeroom of old books as an elephant graveyard of literature—it is to Jaffe's basement that books go when they die.' I think Tivy was probably correct. I'll never forget the hundreds of copies of old school editions of William Kirby's *The Golden Dog*. Or the dusty copies of *National Geographic* lining shelf after shelf. Or the shock of walking around a corner and being confronted by a dark, gloomy room filled floor to ceiling with empty violin cases. I was able to find some treasures in the basement, though. For example, I noticed that a few of the bottom shelves had been labelled years before with the titles of some of the great old pulp magazines. The copies were long gone, but I notice a space under the shelves where magazines might have fallen through. Sure enough, by putting my hand in the space and rooting around (and worrying about what might bite me) I was able to



Sam Osherow at Jaffe's, December, 1979. Doris Miller also worked at Jaffe's for many years. Photo credit – Glenbow Alberta Archives, NA2864-37725-14A.

pull out pristine copies of *Adventure*, *Fighting Aces*, *Weird Tales*, and other pulp titles of the 1930s and 1940s, which I still own.

By the end of the 1970s I was a student at the University of Calgary and was spending many hours at the university library. Jaffe's had been in decline for several years and I seldom visited any more. But Jaffe's closure did come as a shock. The end came when most of the block was cleared to make way for the construction of the Calgary Centre for Performing Arts. According to Patrick Tivy, in December 1979 the City of Calgary paid \$547,500 for the building and all its contents. Sam Osherow was still the manager, and presided over the clearance sale and closure. I recall visiting Jaffe's during its final days, for old times' sake. The store was demolished at the end of January 1980.

If I were able to visit Jaffe's Book and Music Exchange today I would probably conclude that it was not a great bookstore. But it was important to me, and no doubt to other Calgarians, because it instilled in us the romance of old books and the thrill of the book hunt. These days, whenever I walk down Eighth Avenue in Calgary, past the Centre for Performing Arts, I pause to reflect on Jaffe's. I recall the creak of those old floorboards and wonder if somewhere under the pavement there isn't a basement full of old books, mouldering in the dark.

The Bloomenthals and Sidorskys Come to Calgary

by Rosalind Citron and David Sidorsky

Rosalind Corenblum Citron, a Lethbridge native who now lives in Fremont, California, sent us this brief history of her family and its journey from Baltic Russia to Southern Alberta.

This is how the Bloomenthal and Sidorsky families came to settle in Calgary.

In 1912 Selig Bloomenthal, a farmer in Lipsk, Lithuania, and a former Yeshiva student in Grodno, left for Antwerp, Belgium, where he wanted to learn diamond cutting. He left behind his wife Dvora and five children—three girls and two boys.

After the three-month course, Selig could not find a job so he took another three-month session. There were still no jobs. He had two choices—go back to Lipsk, or emigrate to Canada. He and his wife picked Canada; they decided he should go first and then bring the family when he found work.

Selig Bloomenthal left Liverpool on a boat for Halifax. His family back in Lipsk heard about the sinking of the Titanic and feared for his safety, but Selig was not on that doomed vessel.

On his boat was a man named Epstein, also a jeweller, who had friends in the Jewish farm colony of Rumsey, near Calgary. Epstein suggested that the two of them should go to Calgary and open a jewelry store as partners.

With a cheap ticket from the CPR they travelled to Calgary and opened a store on Centre Street between 8th and 9th Avenue. The store didn't do well, but they survived. About 1913 Selig was offered the job of leader in the

new House of Jacob synagogue. The salary was \$500 a year but he turned it down, preferring to stay in the jewelry business.

War broke out in Europe in 1914 and Selig couldn't bring his family to Canada. But the business prospered and the partners opened a second store.

Back in Lipsk the Germans occupied the area and treated the Jews very well. The Russians re-occupied the town in 1916, accused the Jews of collaboration with the enemy, and deported them to the Ukraine.

In 1916, Ella Bloomenthal, Selig's eldest daughter, entered into an arranged marriage with Meir Sidorsky, of Rajgrad. The wedding was held in Lipsk. Meir was one of four Sidorsky brothers: Abba, Fishka, Ari and Meir.

In 1917 the Russians deported the Jews of the Rajgrad region to Cortilyak, near the city of Voronezh. Here, Bella and Meir's first son, Max Sidorsky, was born. The war ended, and the family decided to go back to Rajgrad. A daughter, Bessie, was born to Ella and Meir in 1920.

Meir and Ella Sidorsky and their children, Max and Bessie, were able to emigrate to Canada in 1921. They took with them Ella's mother Dvora Bloomenthal, and her children, Pauline, Rachel and Alter. (Another son had drowned in a swimming accident.) The last Russian ambassador in Berlin gave Meir his passport.

In Calgary, Ella and Meir Sidorsky had three more children; Sarah was born in 1922, David in 1927 and Nancy in 1933.

Pauline Bloomenthal married David

Smolensky, the son of the community's rabbi, Simon Smolensky. (Their daughter is Fay Schwartz.) Alter Bloomenthal carried on his father's jewelry business, operating Alberta Loan on 8th Avenue East until the 1970s.

Meir Sidorsky, his name now changed to Sidorsky, opened a furniture store in 1924.

Meir's niece, Eudis (Edith) came from Poland to Calgary at age 17 in 1929. A year later her brother, Ezi Sidorsky arrived from Rajgrad. They were among the children of Meir's brother Ari Sidorsky. Eudis obtained a job at the CPR station selling magazines and was befriended by Mrs. Kirby, owner of the concession. Mrs. Kirby later opened a gift shop in Banff and was a lifelong friend of Eudis Sidorsky.

In 1931 Eudis married Max Corenblum, who had come to Lethbridge from Brest-Litovsk to be with his sister, Chava Cooper. The young couple opened a small confectionary in Calgary, and their eldest daughter Delores was born in 1932.

The Corenblum family moved to Lethbridge in 1934. Max Corenblum and his brother-in-law Ezi Sidorsky opened a second-hand store and later ran the St. Louis Furniture Store. A second daughter, Rosalind Corenblum, was born to Eudis and Max in 1937.

Postscripts: There were two Max Corenblums, cousins. The other Max, late husband of Shirley Corenblum, was born in Lethbridge and is the father of Calgarian Bernie Corenblum. The younger Max Corenblum died in 1982.)

Eudis Corenblum died in 1963 and Max in 1978. Ezi Sidorsky died in 1991. Delores Corenblum lives in Montreal. Rosalind Corenblum Citron lives in Fremont, California, a block from Sarah Sidorsky's son Malcolm Kaplan, a physicist at the Lawrence Livermore labs.

Two of Ella and Meir Sidorsky's children, Nancy and David, live in the New York area. David Sidorsky is a professor of philosophy at Columbia University. Sarah Sidorsky Kaplan has passed away, as has Max. Their sister Bessie married Alex Rosenthal, enjoyed a long career as a French professor, and lives in Vancouver.

Rosalind Citron and David Sidorsky decided to write this article while having lunch in New York, where Rosalind was visiting her daughter.

Jewish Genealogical Society

Several members of the Jewish Genealogical Society (Southern Alberta) attended the Millennium 2000 conference of the International Association for Jewish Genealogical Societies, held this year in Salt Lake City. The IAJGS has 75 constituent Jewish genealogy groups, including the Calgary JGS, from all over the world.

The first issue of the JGS(SA)'s newsletter—Shorashim-Roots—was published just prior to the conference.

The 14-page journal was edited by Claude and David Romney. Publication of Shorashim was assisted financially by the JHSSA.

The local Jewish Genealogical Society is planning a busy year; many programs and activities are already under way. Contact Florence Elman at 850-4337 or e-mail her at <haflo@cadvision.com> for information. The JGS(SA) is an affiliate of the Jewish Historical Society.

Jewish Cemetery Tour Popular Summer Event

by Harry Sanders

JHSSA Archivist Harry Sanders conducts a tour of the Chevra Kadisha cemetery each year as part of Historic Calgary Week, an annual event in which local historical groups highlight various aspects of Calgary's heritage.

About 50 persons attended this year's "Old Jewish Cemetery Tour" on July 30th. Harry Sanders prepared a biographical guide of several notable gravestones for the 2000 tour. An abridged version of this tour guide is presented here.

The Chevra Kadisha (literally "The Holy Society") is Calgary's oldest Jewish communal organization. It was formed in 1904 when Calgary had only a few Jewish families. An infant, Goldie Bell, died. Her father, Nathan Bell, and Jacob Diamond purchased for the Jewish community a small plot adjacent to Union Cemetery on 30th Avenue South, on what is now Macleod Trail.

The plot cost \$160 and has been expanded several times since. Funeral services were first conducted in a small building on the cemetery site, from private homes, and later at cooperating funeral homes. In 1961 the Chevra Kadisha opened its own funeral chapel, still in use, on 17th Avenue SW.

Over a thousand burials have been conducted by Calgary's Chevra Kadisha. Society volunteers conduct all burials at the old cemetery site (also called Erlton), as well as at the newer Queens Park Jewish section (1943) and the Shaarey Tzedek Memorial Park (1976).

The following sites are visited in the 2000 Old Jewish Cemetery Tour:

The Infants' Memorial: Infant deaths are recorded on all four sides of this special memorial.

Jewish War Memorial: The veteran's cenotaph records the Jewish servicemen who gave their lives serving Canada in both World Wars.

Genizah: A secure vault in which Jewish prayer books and other religious articles are interred. The root meanings of the Hebrew word Genizah includes "treasury" and "preserve".

Jacob Austin, died 1914: Born Gershon Zeilic Arensteinin. His grandson, Jack Austin, was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 1975.

Jacob Bell Barron, 1888–1965: Raised in Dawson, Yukon Territory, he was one of Calgary's first Jewish lawyers. He owned the Grand and Palace theaters for many years, and built the Barron Building, Calgary's first major post-war office building.

Goldie Bell, 1903–1904: Her death prompt-

ed the small Calgary Jewish community (four families) to buy a cemetery site and form the Chevra Kadisha.

Max Brant and Lena Dolgin: This engaged immigrant couple drowned at Bowness Park in 1924. Their side-by-side, single-marker burial is normally accorded only married couples.

Sheldon Chumir, 1940–1992: Rhodes scholar and lawyer who promoted human rights and civil liberties. Chumir served as a Liberal Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1986 until his death.

Arnold Churgin, 1927–1987: Widely recognized as founder of landmark shoe retailing chain. He began selling shoes in 1948 and opened his first store in 1964.

Harry Cohen, 1912–1990: Came from Winnipeg to Calgary in 1931 and was followed by brothers and parents. The Cohen brothers started General Distributors, which later held the Canadian Paper-Mate and Sony franchises, in 1943. Harry was a much-honored philanthropist and community leader. Funding for the Martha Cohen theater was a gift to his wife.

Jacob-Lyon Diamond, 1859–1929: He and wife Rachel were Alberta's first permanent Jewish settlers; Jacob Diamond founded many of Calgary's Jewish institutions; the House of Jacob synagogue was named in his honor. He was a prominent Calgary businessman, working as a liquor merchant.

Rudolf Engel, c.1876–1912: A jeweller responsible for the construction and installation of the Calgary City Hall clock in 1911. He accidentally shot himself while hunting on his homestead near Rumsey.

Rabbi Lewis Ginsburg, 1924–1993: Came to Calgary from Minneapolis in the 1960s and served as rabbi to several synagogues in Edmonton and Calgary. A former sportswriter, he was a sought-after public speaker in the general community. Each Christmas he donned a Salvation Army uniform and rang a bell to collect funds for the Sally Ann's work.

Harris Groberman, 1853–1927: Came to Calgary from Britain in 1904. He was a furniture retailer and an early community leader, notably with the Hebrew School and immigrant aid. His Calgary children (some stayed in England) later became Jewish leaders. Morris Groberman headed the effort to build the Jewish community building, the House of Israel (1926–1930.)

Shaie Jaffe, 1878–1975: Came to Calgary in 1911. He was a pioneer Zionist and Hebrew School stalwart, with a reputation as an intellectual. About 1930 he founded an 8th Avenue East landmark, Jaffe's Books and Music Exchange, which he ran until 1957.

Charles Malkin, 1877–1958: A community leader—president of the House of Jacob synagogue and the Chevra Kadisha—and a well-off grocer. He sold his store, on 8th Avenue East near Second Street (now Macleod Trail), to make way for Calgary's first Safeway store in 1929.

Elias Sengaus, 1878–1956: Pioneer homesteader in the Jewish bloc settlement near Rumsey, started in 1906. Sengaus provided religious leadership and Hebrew education. Following the farm community's decline, the synagogue was moved to the Sengaus farm and became the retirement home of Elias Sengaus and his wife Victoria.

Benny and Tommy Sengaus: bachelor sons of Elias Sengaus who may have been among the last Jewish farmers in the Rumsey-Trochu farm colonies. Agricultural motifs decorate the Sengaus brothers' monument.

Judah Shumiatcher, died 1923: Became a Rumsey-area homesteader after coming to Canada about 1910. He soon moved to Calgary, bringing the city its first Torah scroll and serving as a Hebrew teacher. Judah and Chasia Shumiatcher had eleven children, several of whom left an indelible mark on their adopted city. Abraham Shumiatcher was a prominent lawyer and was active in most Jewish organizations. Morris Smith (after some Shumiatchers changed the family name) founded Smithbilt Hats. Harry and Billy Smith ran Harry's News and Billy's News respectively.

Sam and Bessie Slutker: They owned and managed the Plaza Theatre on Kensington Road for 16 years (1950–1966) and even lived above the lobby. They established the Plaza as an "art house," but ran children's programming every Saturday morning.

Rabbi Simon Smolensky, 1877–1964: He arrived from Lithuania (via the United States) in 1917 and served as Rabbi of the House of Jacob until 1937. He briefly provided religious leadership in Saskatoon and at Calgary's second permanent synagogue, Beth Israel. His large family became business and community leaders.

Charles Simon Waterman, 1877–1970: Physically defended his Romanian neighbors during a pogrom and emigrated to Canada after he was cleared in a much-publicized trial. He became a Trochu-area homesteader and later moved to Calgary. An Austrian relative sent him high-quality cutlery in return for financial aid, and he began importing these and other European goods, forming Western Canada Importers. He was a major financial and ideological supporter of the Calgary Hebrew School; the current building is called the Charles Waterman Talmud Torah.

JHSSA News

JHSSA Mourns Passing of Dave Spindel

Dave Spindel, a JHSSA supporter and active local historian, died recently in Calgary. He was instrumental in collecting and providing to the JHSSA much of our original archival material, and became our first honorary director.

Dave worked as a cultural history cataloger and a curator at the Glenbow Alberta Archives from 1965 to 1974. During these years he helped to collect and catalogue a considerable body of artifacts and documents relating to the Canadian West.

This material included several important Jewish collections—papers and artifacts which might not otherwise have been saved.

Dave Spindel was born in Regina in 1916, joined the RCAF during World War II and served in England. He settled in Calgary after the war, and married Dinah Switzer in 1946. Our condolences go out to Dinah and her daughters Andria and Deborah.

More Video Histories Done

The JHSSA is continuing its program of interviewing Jewish pioneers. The program now includes videotaped interviews, conducted with broadcast-quality recording equipment.

Recent video interviews were conducted with Edythe Pearlman, Morris Sanders, Dave Waterman, and Lillian Zuidema. Our interviewer is Bertha Gold; Jonathan Joffe is videographer.

If you or someone you know would like to be interviewed, either on audio tape or videotape, please call Bertha Gold at 243-0633.

Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Seeks Members

Two JHSSA directors recently attended the annual conference of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, held this year in Edmonton.

The JHSSA is an affiliate of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS). It was formerly the Canadian Jewish Historical Society, and is the Jewish studies agency of the Canadian Jewish Congress. According to ACJS president Harold Troper, "We have

enlarged our horizons to encompass all elements of Jewish studies, both in the academic world and in the wider community."

JHSSA members can join the ACJS for an annual fee of \$15 (others pay \$25). All new members will receive the ACJS bulletin and a special issue of the Journal of Canadian Jewish Studies. This issue will be a book-size bibliography of Canadian Jewish studies publications since the 1960s.

Membership dues should be sent to the ACJS, c/o the Religious Studies Department, Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve West, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1M8.

Thank You to Casino Volunteers

Many thanks to the volunteers who staffed our August 20 and 21 casino at the Elbow River Inn. This is our major fund-raising event, and makes possible the publication of *Discovery*, as well as our other Jewish heritage projects. Again, thank you.

Land of Promise Almost Sold Out

Less than 50 copies of *Land of Promise, The Jewish Experience in Southern Alberta* remain available for sale. The current edition, of which a thousand copies were issued, will not be re-printed.

Land of Promise may be purchased at the front desk of the Calgary Jewish Centre. Cost is \$50. Mail orders, to the JHSSA office, should include an additional \$5 for handling.

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

Statements of fact or opinion appearing in *Discovery* are made on the responsibility of the authors alone, and do not imply the endorsement of the Editors or the J.H.S.S.A.

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