



DISCOVERY

The Journal of the

תגלית

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

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From our Oral History Collection:

Emanuel Cohen

JHSSA, and the Jewish communities of southern Alberta, were saddened by the death last September of long-time supporter, Emanuel Cohen. An active JHSSA Board member, Manny worked tirelessly on projects large and small. He was instrumental to the success of The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project, and spent many years as one of the Montefiore synagogue's volunteer docents at Heritage Park. As much as Manny was a close friend to so many of us – and as fond as he was of telling stories -- there are aspects of his life that aren't well known. He recounted many of his adventures when he was interviewed by Bertha Gold for JHSSA, in November 2000, and we are glad to be able to share them here.

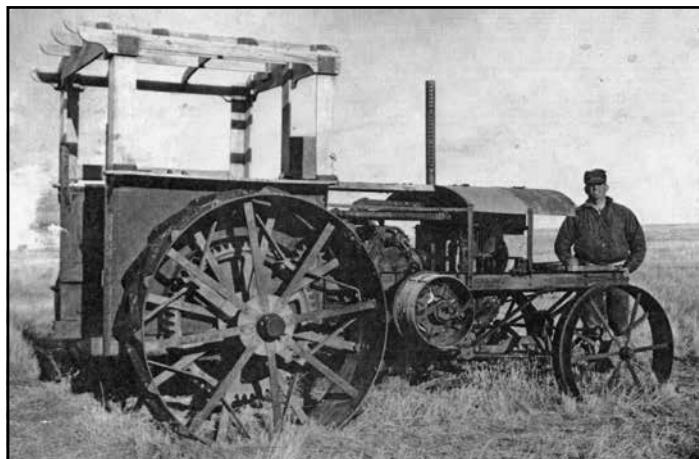
Certain parts of the interview excerpts have been slightly re-arranged for narrative flow.

My father, his name was Hyman Cohen, came from Russia. He was inducted into the Czar's army as a youth. He didn't like the army and escaped to Poland. His family in North America got him from France to New York and then on to Calgary in 1909, to [his first cousins] the Austins. He didn't like New York because it was too crowded ... he knew out west it was still wild ... he worked for the Burns Company as a cattle trader and eventually he found a little property that he could buy and make some money and sell. He moved up the ladder and by the 1930s he had a fair-sized ranch ... in the Porcupine Hills. ... in the summer, I can remember living in the hills north of Pincher Creek on our ranch. In the fall we moved back into the city.

This went on till 1939 when our family moved down to Lethbridge. It was much closer to my dad's livelihood ... buying cattle and with his farm and his ranch. I was nine years old and the first summer it was my brother's Bar Mitzvah. I can remember going to the shul and it was just packed. It was fun ... and I soon settled in to the life in Lethbridge.

I went through high school in Lethbridge, [and] ... I was going to go to an American college to play football—I had an invitation to go—but ended up going to the University of Oklahoma [taking Geology] and it was quite an exposure living in the south. I lived in a Jewish fraternity house. I never graduated there because in the middle of my studies my father was in a train accident. I came home to help run the farm and ranches. I thought that was just as important as getting a university degree. He survived but he never regained his strength. He operated mostly from his bedside and telephone. I guess you could say I was the gofer trying to emulate my father—it was quite a challenge.

Because my father had branched out, we had ranches all over Southern Alberta. I couldn't get around to them fast enough so I took



Emanuel Cohen and Farm Equipment, c.1946. JHSSA #564

up flying. I found it very challenging and flying became part of my life. In one day I could be from Lethbridge to Pincher Creek and to Drumheller down to Medicine Hat. One of the highlights [was] in 1950—this was one of the earlier wars in Israel. We had a speaker, Shimon Hacohen, and he had to speak in Calgary and Lethbridge on the same day. My dad and I volunteered to take him to the Lethbridge appeal and Medicine Hat, [and] I had him home in Calgary that same night so he could continue on to Vancouver. Another trip—my father was very friendly with Harry Veiner, the mayor of Medicine Hat. Harry was running as Liberal candidate for Medicine Hat and District, [and] he had to speak in the morning in Medicine Hat and in Empress, Alberta at noon at a baseball game. We landed on the baseball diamond. We took the plane on to the side—they stopped the game and he spoke to the farm people [about the grain car shortage]. For the evening he had to be in a contest with the mayor of Lethbridge in kicking a football, so from Empress we flew to Lethbridge.

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From our Oral History Collection: Emanuel Cohen

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Manny Cohen at the Stampede, 1950.
JHSSA #3176

We got there just in time and he won the kicking football contest.

We sold the plane many years ago when we sold the ranches. In one sense I was sorry to see a friend go—but I had my days of flying and a lot of close calls. [Once] in Drumheller, we were looking for some lost cattle. It was very stormy and I landed the airplane. I left three men on the ground, and I continued to search the East Coulee which is east of Drumheller.

The storm came in—it was very bad and I returned back to the Hand Hills, which is where the landing strip was. As I landed the storm came on. I was on the ground, and it was like a whirlwind. I was stopped, but on the backside of a hill. The whirlwind picked the airplane up with me in it, and [the wind] laid [the plane] upside down on the airstrip. I had a seat belt on [and] I wasn't hurt, but I tell you I was plenty shook up. The men saw what happened because they were down at the hangar, there was nothing they could do. I was better at least on the ground. It was my closest call.

My father still continued in the feed lot business as well as the farm and ranches and we were custom feeding cattle for the packers and one special client in Vancouver—he was a very large meat packer. [Then] My older brother [who had graduated at the University of Oklahoma and married a Jewish girl there] left the oil business because my father urged him to come back, and we were getting larger and larger. At the end of our time we had 275,000 acres scattered in different places.

We [grew wheat], and my father urged us to have partners and the partners had a share crop in the farms. Then we bought one of the larger irrigation farms of Alberta—it was the Clarindale Stock Farms [near Vauxhall, AB].

My brother and I continued on [when] my father ... had a stroke and could no longer function. My brother was very scientific [and] had the chemistry courses, [and] we started a dehydrating plant operated in Vauxhall. It was 1955-56. It was the second dehydrating plant in Canada. What we took was lush alfalfa grasses that were cut in the very prime time. They were flash dried in a dehydrator. The idea was to preserve Vitamin A. It was very, very rich in Vitamin A, and was used in a blend of a feed for livestock animals.

Another reason for Vauxhall—it was the substation for the Canadian Experimental Farms and they cooperated fully. We were able to have all of our testing done the same day. And it was a very hard industry because we only had 120 growing days to manufacture our product.

We were financed partly by the Alberta Development Corporation which was part of the Social Credit government. And they were always friendly to my father's holdings. We had leased land from the government and we were always at maximum amount of lease [for] our cattle and our sheep. The sheep took tremendous amounts of grass. Eventually after eight or nine years I became sick, and what had happened—we were processing winter seeds. I developed dicumeral poisoning. It's developed through bacteria and rotting mold. Over a number of years, I breathed too much of this into my lungs. I developed a bleeding disease. It was very frightening, and with good medicines I was able to

recover. We considered it was a good time to leave that industry, and some people from Ontario bought the venture and Donna and I moved back to Calgary.

[But even after] I was back to the city on a fulltime basis again, I was always an outdoor person and I was always out in the country—you know the expression "you can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of the boy". I still have many friends that I see, and having known so many people—I have been all over southern Alberta working in the agricultural business and in the city. It's been very interesting.

... I thrive on the past. I travel and try to go to museums and do as much as I can to learn about the pioneers. I know so many stories about the old timers because my father loved history. When you look at the tombstones—I see these stories, they are in the stones. If we don't take the time [to tell] about our parents—our grandparents—ourselves—then it will be gone. ... archiving things that are already gone—well, it's a love. ... we owe a debt of gratitude to our grandparents and parents for picking this beautiful country that we live in.

May his memory be for a blessing.

Celebrate Canadian Jewish Heritage Month

History Mystery Box – An Invitation to Participate

Who? Individuals, families, school classes, groups of friends or extended family, and generally anyone who is interested in our history. **Sign up with the office by March 31, 2021.**

What? A free box containing 5-7 mystery history items, with questions and open-ended prompts for examining and responding to the items, and a sealed key with further information. Participants receive their box, spend some time with it either individually or in a group¹, and then send their response back to JHSSA.

Where? Boxes will be available for pick-up from the Calgary JCC or delivery to your residence in Calgary (details to be determined based on ever-evolving Covid guidelines). They will also be available by mail to those who live out-of-town and wish to participate.

When? We will contact you with details when the boxes become available in mid-April. Please send your box responses back to the office by **June 10, 2021**. May is Canadian Jewish Heritage Month, an ideal time to examine our history together.

Why? So many reasons! Mostly because we think it will be interesting, educational and fun, but also because we miss you, and while our online programs help, they don't completely bridge the gap. In addition, we plan to feature some of your responses in *Discovery* and possibly in a future JHSSA program.

How? That is an excellent question. **For more information on the how, and on the boxes in general, please check out our "unboxing" video, History Unwrapped.** <https://jhssa.org/history-mystery-box-history-unwrapped/>. It premiered as a Zoom program on March 9. You can also contact the office with further questions.

1. Please keep your groups virtual or within COVID guidelines.

A Bagful of History: The Grade Two Montefiore Unit Education Kit

March 2021 marks 10 years since Marni Besser, Maxine Fischbein, Barbara Joffe, Therese Nagler, Agi Romer Segal and Betty Sherwood first met to discuss the creation of what early meeting minutes called a “modest tool that could be used in a variety of ways to provide basic historical information about the local Jewish community to schools and community groups”. None of those involved are entirely sure where the idea of such a tool originated, but it was quickly realized that the schools were the place to start.

Early discussions with Shoshana Kirmeyer, then-Judaics Principal at Calgary Jewish Academy, raised several possible topics that could benefit from JHSSA historical resources. Ranging in grade-level from early elementary to late junior high, some of the topics were specific to CJA and others general to the Alberta Curriculum. As one committee member suggested, a resource for public schools that could expand knowledge of the Jewish community “beyond latkes on Chanukah” would be valuable for all involved. *Communities in Canada: Grade 2 Montefiore Unit* was the eventual result, completed in 2014. It is a self-contained kit including detailed lesson plans, excerpts of oral history recordings and transcripts, related readings, colour copies of photos and documents, and sample artifacts (replicas), along with information supporting a field-trip to the original Montefiore Colony synagogue, a popular destination for visitors to Heritage Park, all in a purpose-made carrying bag.

The inquiry-based unit challenges young students to explore primary source material, that is, original or facsimile material, including excerpts from five oral histories: those of Rose Chetner, Eva Sarah Gorasht, Julian Ullman, Sarah Ullman and her daughter Sylvia Sandra Ullman Yaffe, and David Zukerman. David Zukerman’s family arrived in the area after the original community members had moved on. The following is an excerpt of his interview:

(DZ) Most of Montefiore was vacant so they were only too glad to get somebody in there and they selected a farm that had water. A lot of the other farms had wells but they weren’t that productive. So the well that we had was [on] the old Israel Chetner place, [it] would support sixty head of livestock.

(INT) So I’m not sure of my history, were you then members of Montefiore or they had moved on at that point?

(DZ) No. Everything was vacant. The synagogue and...

(INT) Isn’t it interesting that the synagogue has been moved to Heritage Park? So you have BIG history! Do you remember the synagogue?

(DZ) Oh yes. Well in 1931 or ’32 one of the farmers there used the synagogue as grain storage.

(INT) Really?

(DZ) In 1930 and ’31 and he had the windows boarded up but this was in the off-season and he had taken the grain out and we were driving through there, I don’t know if my dad was fixing a fence or ... anyway, we went down to the Synagogue. There were little piles of grain lying around the floor of the synagogue. There were mice and gophers and birds because of the grain. In one corner under a tiny little pile of grain, there was a tiny corner of a book protruding out of this pile. And my dad swept it away and this book is now at the Historical Society. It’s the only relic that remains that has the stamp of Montefiore colony in Muhlbach, AB.

(INT) That’s quite amazing...

(DZ) Really ... we took it home. Can you imagine it was in our possession for about 60 years?

(INT) Good you saved it!

(DZ) As a child I mean I could have taken the crayons to it or torn out the pages. I don’t know what could have happened to it, but we put it away...

While response to the kit has been enthusiastically positive from those that have used it, one of the largest challenges remains that of bringing it to the attention of teachers. Reva Faber, who developed the kit for JHSSA, recently presented it at the 2021 Calgary City Teachers’ Convention, an online gathering of 10,000 registrants each attending different sessions from home.

The Montefiore Unit opens a window on a farming community in Alberta in the early 1900s, illustrating the colourful details of life in a specific time and place, in the context of wider immigrant experiences and rural life. While it is tailored to the grade two curriculum, the resources and activities can be adapted to other situations. Two education kits are loaned by the JHSSA, free of charge.

Enduring thanks to Reva Faber for creating the unit, Agi Romer Segal for providing archival and research support, Alberta Community Spirit Grant for the generous funding, Rimom Calgary for creating the carry bags for each Unit Kit, Aviva Cheuk for donating a replica artifact (Tzedakah Box), and Morley Faber for crafting the Torah pointers (yadayim).

Call for Volunteer Transcribers

Oral history interviews are crucial in the preservation of our stories, but those stories only become accessible once an interview recording has been transcribed. JHSSA is currently processing a backlog of interviews in need of transcription. Please contact the office to find out more about helping out.



JHSSA Education Kit

Country Roads:

reflections on landscape and memory

By R. Kerr

Oral histories and other types of memoir are a vital component of many of our archival collections. They often convey landscapes, literal and figurative, that become an intrinsic part of the memories that we preserve, and pass on.

The following piece, originally written for the Spring 2021 issue of Canadian Jewish Studies, was inspired by a (COVID-aware) 2020 road-trip suggested by Naomi (Buddy) Kerr, eldest daughter of Dr. Alex and Gertie Belkin, who moved to Calgary in 1945.

The primary locations of this story are the traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota, Lakota and Dakota Nations, and the Métis Nation (Eastend, SK), and the traditional territory of the Kainai, Piikani, Siksika, Stoney-Nakoda and Tsuut'ina Nations, and Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3 (Calgary, AB).

My mother was born in Eastend, Saskatchewan, in November, 1931.

Well technically she was born in Winnipeg, where her mother had gone to spend the pre- and post-delivery “lying in” with her extended family. But technicality aside, my mother was a child of the prairies. We grew up taking long family road trips, and her fondness for an open prairie sky—her appreciation of the patchwork of farmers’ fields—her delight in the surprise of a creek, nestled at the base of a mid-grass rise—became as much bred in my bones, as in hers. Two generations later, road trips through the prairies still regularly include a detour to Eastend to eat at Jack’s Café, go past the old house, stop at the school, and re-tell her stories, which we know as well as we know our own. In the summer of 2020, one last visit was at the top of her to-do list.

Eastend sits at the east end of the Cypress Hills, which stretch from southern Alberta into Saskatchewan. It was—and is—something of an area hub, situated alongside the Frenchman River, which

flooded dramatically in 1952. The main road into town drops into the river valley, and on each return visit, for many decades now, Mom comments on how the descent’s not as steep as she remembers.

Her father, Alex, was a doctor. After graduating medical school in Winnipeg at the tender age of 23, he took a *locum tenens* position in Tomkins, Saskatchewan. The landscape and lifestyle suited him, and he subsequently took on a permanent position in Eastend, returning to Winnipeg only to marry his fiancée, Gertie. They settled happily into the rhythms of the small town, which then had a population of around 500. They played bridge and tennis, and were active members of the community, which included two—and for a time, three—Jewish families. (Murray Robins and his sister, Mona (Robins) Joffe²¹, also eventually moved to Calgary, and remained life-long friends.) They were also fortunate to have occasional visits from some of their Winnipeg relatives.

Mom had a happy childhood. She played in the river and on its banks, and roamed freely with her friends, on foot or by bicycle. She had received the bicycle for her birthday when she was six or seven. After dinner one night, her father asked if she’d like to go for a walk, and they went down to the pharmacy. Imagine her delight and surprise when the bicycle she saw there, with a large bow on it, turned out to be for her—a gift that her father had ordered from a catalogue, and asked the pharmacist to put together. She learned to ride it in the large field east of town, though the bicycle was so big, it would be years before she grew into it.

My mother was very close to her dad. He had one of only a few vehicles in the area, and from a young age, she went with him when he did his rounds of the farm families. She was a thoughtful child—an only child until she was 6½—and she had an active imagination. As they drove, she would look out the window, and think about how big the prairies were, and how you could travel for days and days, with only the undulations of the land for company; she imagined what it must have been like for those who had travelled there before. She remembers the different animals they used to see, and she had a real fondness for the sheep who were always in the same corner of one particular farm yard. They were so white, and lay so still. It came as quite a surprise when she eventually realised that they were, in fact, not sheep at all, but very large rocks.

This realization came to her around the time she started school.

Eastend had an elementary school and a high school, on a plot of land off Pottery Street on the north side of town, near the river. My mother remembers when a bad storm damaged the roof of the elementary school, and temporary space for the younger children was found in the bigger building. Lining up to go in each morning, she would stand up as tall as ever she could, so that people going by would think that she was, indeed, old enough to be in high school.



Buddy Belkin and her mother, Gertie; Frenchman River, 1933.



Buddy Belkin and her father, Alex; Eastend Bridge, 1936.



(L-R) Murray Robins, Mona Robins, Buddy Belkin, and friend, 1936.

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Country Roads

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By the time she really was in high school, she wasn't in Eastend anymore. Alex had enlisted in the army not long after Canada entered WWII. He went to Regina for basic training, and when he was sent overseas, Gertie took my mother and my aunt (who had been born in 1938) back to Winnipeg. When Alex returned to Canada in 1945, he was posted to the Colonel Belcher Veteran's Hospital in Calgary. Though my mother started Grade 9 in Winnipeg, the family moved west to join him a few months later.

Mom finds it interesting that she doesn't remember much about the trip from Winnipeg to Calgary. All that has stuck with her is standing at the train window, nose pressed to the glass, itching for the mountains to come into view. She'd only ever seen them in pictures, or read about them in books, and she couldn't wait for the real thing. The idea that they'd soon be living close enough to actually go there—well, there really were no words. (The family's first mountain road trip took place the following spring. They went with a friend, who amazed my mother by knowing the heights of all the peaks. It was some time before she realized that he was just reading the little roadside signs.)

She was aware, from the start, of a curious phenomenon, a trick of perception that sometimes made the mountains seem so close, and sometimes so far. Seeing them in person, she understood what made people think, so incorrectly, that they could just walk there from the city and be back in time for dinner. She imagined—much as she had done in Eastend—what it would have been like to have travelled there by foot, on horseback, or by wagon, especially in winter. She has visceral memories of the winters of her youth, especially the dry sharpness of the western prairie cold, so different from Winnipeg's humidity. And until she came to Calgary, and experienced the vagaries of its weather, she had never before had a birthday without snow on the ground.

There have since been many birthdays, some with snow and some without. My mother has lived a long, full life, and has frequently said how glad she is to have lived it in Calgary. She—like her parents before her—formed life-long friendships, and strong ties to her community. And she has always been surrounded by the land that has shaped her: the pull of the endless prairie, rising and falling to the east; the riverbanks and fields of her childhood playground; the

alluring and elusive mountains, ever-present, to the west.

These are my mother's landscapes. She carries them with her, and has gifted them to us. And she is still, at age 89, always up for a ride in the country.

Roberta Kerr is currently the JHSSA Archivist.

JHSSA NEWS

Winter Programs

Many thanks to Diana Kalef, Betty Sherwood and Jerry Snukal, for their guest presentation of our first Zoom program for 2021, *Demystifying Legacy Giving*. The event saw 25 participants gather online for an informal and informative session, with a lively Q & A component.

Thanks also to Dr. Ángelas Cohen, whose program *From Sephardim to Mizrachim: A History of Social Categories in Israel*, was presented in partnership with CHW Calgary as part of a mini lecture-series. Angy's thought-provoking and passionate talk focused on the current systemic racism experienced by the Mizrahi community in Israel, and its historic roots. We received enthusiastic feedback from many of the 50 attendees, whose questions and stories enriched the discussion.



Dr Ángelas Cohen

Upcoming event:

Attestations: A Military Mosaic of Unexpected Stories

Monday, April 19, 2021, 1:00 pm on Zoom

With the Chicago JCC

The Chicago JCC is hosting online programs highlighting the history of other localities. Our archivist, Roberta Kerr, will present an updated version of her 2017 talk, sharing stories surrounding some of the individuals included in the Southern Alberta Jewish Veterans of World War I & II Database. These stories are largely based on information gleaned from veterans' attestation papers that have been accessed through Library and Archives Canada, and from the research process. They are at once unique to each individual, and fundamentally universal. Please contact the office if you would like to join us for this international event.

Yiddish Videos in the News

The Voice of Yiddish Calgary was a local Yiddish television show, originally broadcast by Rogers Cable in 1994. We posted the 10 episodes to our website (jhssa.org/videos/) early this past January, and it promptly became the subject of a news story on *The Forward's* Yiddish page. (January 12, 2021). Prior to our posting of the show, article author, Jordan Kutzik, was only aware of two complete Yiddish television programs (from Montreal and Moldova), and some "special programs in Israel and Sweden". His article summarizes the range of interviewees, commenting on the variety of Yiddish accents and dialects from the three generations included among the guests, and gives a short biography of the host, Aron Eichler. The videos received over 270 views in January alone, and we are very grateful to Rogers for their supportive response to our request for permission to publish the program.



Aron Eichler.



Two of Buddy's grandchildren on the porch of the old house, 1995.

My Brush with Fame: Romper Room, c.1963

By Maxine Fischbein



Maxine Fischbein, c. 1963.

With many of us navigating work, prayer and leisure via Zoom during the COVID-19 pandemic, we baby boomers can't help but connect the dots between the virtual squares that now define our days and the television shows that raised us. Hollywood Squares and Laugh In come to mind, but each time someone entering a virtual meeting starts reciting the names of the people they see on their monitor, it brings back childhood memories of my earliest brush with fame.

I am transported back to Romper Room where Miss Marion (I hope I remember her name correctly) used to hold up her "magic mirror" and say the names of the children who were watching at home.

Romper stomper bomper boo. Tell me, tell me, tell me, do. Magic Mirror, tell me today, did all my friends have fun at play?

Following that incantation, Miss Marion would look through her Magic Mirror and recite the names of lucky kids staring unblinkingly at massive tube TVs throughout suburbia.

I was always crushed when Miss Marion failed to notice me as I bounced between the floor, ceiling and walls of our Lynnwood living room. No matter how heartily I belted out the lyrics of Romper Room standards while imitating the elaborate choreography that accompanied them, Miss Marion remained oblivious to the fact of my existence.

Perhaps I would have had more luck with Calgary Romper Room host Miss Anne (AKA Anne Goresht)!

For the historical record, I swear that I was a Do-Bee! I Do-Bee'd all day long. *See me walk so straight and tall*, I pleaded with Miss Marion, promising her that I would, under no circumstances, let my basket fall. Still she didn't say my name. All I had to show for my effort was good posture (belated thanks, Miss Marion!).

My mother no longer recalls exactly how it came to pass, but the constellations lined up in 1963. Miss Marion was still claiming to see Bobby and Johnny and Michelle and Susan in her Magic Mirror, but I showed all of them! I was chosen as one of the on-air participants on CFRN Edmonton's Romper Room show. Now Miss Marion would finally see me in all my five-year-old glory without need of her malfunctioning prop.

I don't remember too many details of my television debut and, sadly, there are no photos or other mementos I've been able to put my now-arthritic fingers on.

I do recall that I was on the show together with a playmate who lived on the next street. While I don't remember the drama as it unfolded in real time, I was later told that my loquacious pal had been a little too open with on-air information about family dynamics. Kids do say the darndest things!

Her parents panicked, seeing little choice but to pull my little friend off the show before we got to the end of our multi-day gig. They later

divorced; sadly, even Miss Marion could not do anything about that. As we kids grew to discover—and perhaps we even knew it then—adults are sometimes Don't-Bees too.

While researching Romper Room, I discovered that it was a policy of the show not to give up on their small guests—even those who were *vilde chayas*—as my Baba used to put it—or Don't-Bees, as Miss Marion was wont to say.

There is a story out there about Leonardo DiCaprio's early brush with fame as a Romper Room guest. Apparently he was a Don't-Bee and legend has it that he may have been taken off the set.

It did not ruin his career.

Regrettably, Romper Room did not launch mine.

Having had a modest taste of stardom, I set a lofty goal for my next television appearance, a unique-to-Edmonton 1960s classic called Popcorn Playhouse. Host Eric Neville (AKA Klondike Eric) interviewed kids who then got to dig for gold-wrapped nickels in a sandbox. A really savvy gold digger could go home with 25 or 30 cents. You had to have a great imagination to conjure the Alaska gold rush (for which Edmonton had been a gateway city) and the Klondike Days *meshugas* that the show sought to promote. K Days—Edmonton's answer to the Calgary Stampede—was fun while it lasted.

Sadly, my dreams of appearing on Popcorn Playhouse failed to launch.

Unlike Di Caprio's, my showbiz career was almost over with the exception of performances as a chorus member in musicals produced by the Edmonton Jewish Youth Centre during the 1960s and 70s.

Then, in my mid-teens, I successfully auditioned for a role in a Walterdale Theatre production of *David and Lisa*. Unlike Miss Marion, the *Edmonton Journal* critic mentioned my name. In an ironic twist, I earned his praise for my portrayal of a girl gone wild ... a classic example of a Don't-Bee.

This seems consistent with historian Laura Thatcher Ulrich's oft-quoted assertion that "well-behaved women seldom make history."

They do, however, make Zoom a more civilized room in which to romp during a pandemic!

Maxine Fischbein has lived in Calgary since 1993. She has served as communications director of Calgary Jewish Federation, president of Beth Tzedec Congregation, and board and executive member of the JHSSA. A freelance writer and volunteer, Maxine still strives to be a Do-Bee.



Romper Room set, CFRN Channel 3, Sunwapta Studios, Edmonton, AB, c. 1960. Photo credit: Gordon Sinclair, Facebook

2021 Membership List

Members

Irvin Adler
Susan Aizenman Millman
Valerie Barsky
Brian Belzberg
Karen Belzberg
Cylia & Shel Bercovich
Jeanette & Rudy Berger
Sheila Bermack
Claire & Ben Berman
Aaron Bickman
Sonia & David Bickman
Annie Brodsky
Debora Carnat &
Paul Gronnerud
Tish Carnat &
Rachel Carnat-Rabess
Sarabeth Carnat
Shirley & Al Chafetz
Jeri Churgin
Bernice Cohen
Alberto De Mayo
Eleanor & Labie Doctor
Michelle Doctoroff &
Ted Switzer
Sylvia Downton
Zena, Lorne &
Sara Drabinsky
Nadine & David Drexler
Faith & Jerry Dubisky
Tish Dvorkin
Delsie B Dworkin & Family
David Eisenstadt
Reva Faber
Libby & Harry Feldman
Naida & Nate Feldman
Arthur Fishman
Sammy Fishman
Bernard Ghert
Halley & Bruce Girvitz
Reesa Girvitz
Rabbi Mark Glickman
Louise Glin
Sondra²¹ &
George Goodman
Lori Gray
Avrona & Henry Gutman
Susan & David Inhaber
Linda Jeffery
Barbara Joffe
David Joffe
Kristen & Jonathan Joffe
Lily Joffe
Irena Karshenbaum

Naomi Kerr
Roberta Kerr
Rachel Kerr-Lapsley
Garry Kohn
Frances Sheftel Kolinsky
Barb & Ron Krell
Leslie Levant
Leah Levitt
Carol & Mel Levitt
Carolyn & Bruce Libin
Susan Lubell
Beulah Martin
Estelle Matthews
Betty Mayer
Chana Nachal
McKereghan
Jack Meyer
Chuck Mozeson
Lila Mydlarski
Connie & George Nagler
Jason Nisenon
Roberta Nitkin
Hindy & Izak Paul
Susan Podlog
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**JHSSA membership year is from
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President's Message

By Sandra Lipton

Through the ongoing and fluctuating COVID restrictions, JHSSA has continued to preserve, present and promote the history of our Jewish communities of southern Alberta. We successfully moved our public programming to the Zoom platform, where 60 households participated in our AGM celebrating 30 years of achievements, and we have hosted a number of other well-received programs. Please check out our wonderful newly redesigned website for upcoming events and the new digital resources, including videos of recent programs and the late Aron Eichler's 1994 Yiddish cable program.



One of our core activities is the recording of oral histories from members of our community. Capturing these stories from individuals residing in both small and large centres is so important for the preservation of our history. During the pandemic, we continue to record oral histories using video conferencing and other methods allowed under COVID restrictions. Please contact the office if you are interested in being interviewed or wish to volunteer as an interviewer or transcriber.

The current pandemic has highlighted the importance of ongoing sources of funding to support our various programs and ensure our history is not forgotten. We are most grateful to the over 40 individuals who have supported us in the LIFE & LEGACY program to date. If you have not yet participated in this after-lifetime giving initiative, please consider supporting those organizations that you cherish through this legacy giving opportunity. Contact our office or consult our website (jhssa.org) for information on the variety of ways you can assist JHSSA.

I am very happy to welcome Garry Kohn and Sandra Morton Weizman to our board and thank outgoing member Ken Drabinsky for all his contributions. Sadly, our long-term friend, board member and history buff, Manny Cohen^{z"l}, passed away just prior to our last AGM. Preserving our history was so important for Manny and I am pleased we are sharing an excerpt of his history in this issue.

Thank you to our members, board, volunteers and staff for all your ongoing support and dedication. Welcome to our new members, and extra gratitude to those members who increased their level of annual support. We are indebted to major donors such as The Alvin & Mona Libin Foundation who annually provide significant funding to our organization. Additionally, this year, we are very grateful to the Government of Canada for COVID-19 Emergency support funding that has enabled us to produce this issue of *Discovery* and continue to care for our heritage collections. Lastly, we welcome Katie Baker, our Office Manager and Program Coordinator, to her new role as editor of *Discovery*.

Hope you all stay safe and healthy.

JHSSA Website

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to send us feedback on our new website. The site launched in late October 2020, thanks to a grant from Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary, and a generous donation from Bev and Harvey Silverstone. We would also like to thank Ryan Levin and his team at The Digital Lion; they were fantastic to work with throughout the redesign process.

Thank You to our LIFE & LEGACY™ Donors

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

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

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

Statements of fact or opinion appearing in *Discovery* are the responsibility of the authors alone, and do not imply the endorsement of the editors or the JHSSA.

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