



War is Declared

Last spring, we shared a letter celebrating the end of World War II written by Esther Pearlman to Allan "Curly" Gurevitch, and we inadvertently identified them as siblings, when in fact they were friends, not relatives. JHSSA apologizes for the error, and thanks our readers for pointing it out.

This issue, we'd like to share a journal entry written in remembrance of the war's beginning by Molly Dexall (nee Shnay). Molly was 19 years old, living with her family in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, when the war was announced. This piece, written sometime after her marriage to Jack Dexall, came to our attention through its mention of Macey Milner, who is included in our veterans Wall of Honour. It was originally published in the Jewish Independent in August 2019, with the title "View of the Past."

September 2, 1939

In Prince Albert, we got the news that there would be a Young Judaeon Convention in Saskatoon. I wanted to go very badly and my parents agreed to it.

It was to be held in the Bessborough Hotel and to be opened by a formal dinner and dance. As I had no formal gown, I worked some Saturdays for Mr. Barsky at the Blue Chain Stores to earn enough money to buy one. The gown I bought there was a pale pink taffeta and cost six dollars.

I stayed with the Sugarmans in Saskatoon and a blind date was arranged for me for the big dinner and dance. His name was Macy Milner and I thought him very handsome and charming.

In the ballroom, shortly before we were requested to find our tables, someone came up and asked me to make the toast to Junior Hadassah. Macey asked if I wanted help in deciding what to say but I told him it was simple and I had it figured out already. When we were seated and I was asked to do my part, I stood up majestically in my six-dollar pink taffeta gown, held up my glass of water and in a loud triumphant voice I hollered "Here's to Junior Hadassah" took a long drink of water and sat down. Simple it was —probably the simplest toast that Junior Hadassah has ever received.

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"War has just been declared"

We sat stunned and there seemed nothing more to do but go home.

I had some sleep and about noon Macey phoned to ask if I'd care to walk in the park with him and some other people. That scene remains imprinted on my memory like a movie still. That little group of five teenage young Judaeans seems almost to have gravitated together on that day like a point in time.

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Journal page from Molly Shnay Dexall.

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We strolled solemnly and almost silently under the warm sun, over the green grass and through the trees ... We knew that something beautiful had ended and something terrible had begun, September 2, 1939.

Please join JHSSA for our Annual General Meeting and program

Monday, November 4, 2024

7:00 p.m., Calgary JCC and on Zoom
The Little Synagogue on the Prairie at
Heritage Park:

15 Years of Trailblazing Storytelling
Presented by Irena Karshenbaum

See page 7 for full event details



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Community Milestones 1924 and 1974

by Agi Romer Segal

1924

Calgary's economy was still weak in 1924. A visitor collecting funds for the Jewish Old Age Home in Winnipeg reported to the *Israelite Press* that Calgary's Jewish population had dropped from 350 to 200 families in recent times, most of the emigres hailing from the wealthier sector. The monthly community budget was \$1000–\$1200. The three Jewish women's organizations, as well as the B'nai Brith Lodge, saw to most of the local needs. Calgary Jews pledged \$600 for the Old Age Home during his visit.

Despite the difficult economic situation, refugees from the turmoil in eastern Europe continued to arrive. They were met at the train station, led to the immigrant home, and helped with finding employment. Most available jobs at the time did not provide a decent income.

Although funds were scarce, cultural endeavours flourished. The recent establishment of the *Literatur Farein* (Calgary Jewish Literary Association) in 1923 helped boost cultural activity, especially among young adults. The *Farein*, which had over 60 members, hosted numerous lectures both by local Jews, including Rabbi Smolensky, Louis Rosenbaum and Shaie Jaffe and by noted visitors such as Peretz Hirshbein. Members also staged debates and concerts featuring both literary and musical presentations. A March concert involved a large cast featuring skits, readings and musical selections by local talent. A reporter for the *Israelite Press* published an extensive review of each performer. He expressed the importance of the event for the Calgary audience. "There was no lack of crying babies, but we must forgive the Jewish mothers. A Jewish concert in town; how could she sit at home?" Proceeds from the concert went to the "Tools Campaign" for the workers of the land of Israel.

דער צוואנציקסטער יארצייט

פון דעם אומפארנעסליכען נאציאנאלען פיהרער

ד. הרצל

וועט געהאלטען ווערען

זונטאג דעם 27טען דוילאי 1924

אום 8 אוהר אין אווענד אין עמפרעס טעאטער

פריץ הירשביין

רעו. סמאלענסקי

אונד אנדערע גוטע רעדנער וועלען ארעסירען אין איריש און ענגליש. און דית'ת קינדער וועלען אנשיל נעמען פרייע קאמפאזיציע אירישע קאמפאזיציע אין דעם הערצל ווארד אום איין קינע געלד זאמלונגען.



THEODORE HERZL

Farewell, O Prince, farewell, O sorely tried!
You dreamed a dream and you have paid the cost:
To save a people leaders must be list;
By foes and followers be crucified,
Yet 'tis your body only that has died.
The noblest soul in Judah is not dust
But fire that works in every vein and must
Reshape our life, rekindling Israel's pride.
—Israel Zangwill.

דער וועלט בעקאנטער אירישער שרייבער, דיכטער און לעקטורער

אונדער בעוואוסטער רעדנער

20th ANNIVERSARY

OF

DR. HERZL'S DEATH

A MEMORIAL SERVICE

to honor the Memory of the Immortal Founder of modern Zionism

to be held at the **EMPRESS THEATRE** on Sunday, July 27, at 8p.m.

Mr. Peretz Hirshbein, the noted Jewish Author

Rev. Smolensky and other speakers will address

CHILDREN OF THE TALMUD TORAH and OTHERS WILL PARTICIPATE

No Appeal Everybody Welcome Do Not Miss This

The Joint Committee

The needs of the pioneers were foremost in the minds of the local community. A number of lectures were about the situation in Palestine. A major Zionist event was the 20th Herzl Memorial in July at the Empress Theatre. Yiddish author Peretz Hirshbein delivered the keynote speech about Herzl. The \$150 raised paid for the purchase of trees in Palestine.

The community also supported the Talmud Torah with a Rosh Hashana drive which brought in \$1000. The school's afternoon classes had about 100 students with a strenuous curriculum which included Hebrew and Yiddish literature, Bible with Rashi's commentary and Jewish history, taught from S. Dubnow's iconic book. The library was the pride of the Talmud Torah. It contained most of the Hebrew children's literature that was available at that time. Older students held youth services every Shabbat. The greatest obstacle to the growth of the school was seen to be the drop-out rate in the higher grades, since most teens chose to abandon their Jewish education upon entering high school, with greater focus on extra-curricular activities. Community leaders and school supporters were faced with the dilemma of investing resources to ensure a high level of Jewish instruction, only to see the students' development cut short.

The summer of 1924 ended in a tragedy with the drowning of recent immigrants Max (Michael) Brant (23) and Lena (Eidel) Dolgin (21). The two acquaintances were members of the Literary Association. The local press gave the boating accident in Bowness extensive coverage. Fortunately, Lena's niece, eight-year-old Ida Roginsky, was revived at the scene. Most unusually, the two victims were buried beside each other under a double headstone. The inscription states

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Milestones *Continued from Page 2*

that they drowned "after escaping from Russia at the time of the pogroms and the massacres."



Dolgin / Brant headstone, Erlton Cemetery.

1974

After the Calgary Jewish community's generous response to the UJA Emergency Campaign in the wake of the Yom Kippur War, the challenge was to maintain the momentum throughout 1974 as Israel's needs were still great. Based on the reports in the *Calgary Jewish News*, issues dealing with Israel were prominent. Efforts were made to widen the fund-raising campaign. The slogan for the Women's Division was "Every Woman Can Give."

A number of community members were honoured in 1974. The JNF Negev Dinner was held in January at the Beth Israel. Honourees were Aron and Ida Eichler for their contributions in a wide spectrum of community organizations. Aron arrived in Calgary in 1952 and served the I.L. Peretz School for 25 years as both teacher and principal. Native born Ida Zysblat taught at the school for 18 years. They served as directors of the Young Judaea Camp in Chestermere and at Camp BB at Pine Lake. Aron was active in the B'nai Brith Lodge and Ida founded the Sabra Chapter of Hadassah. She went on to serve on the national executive of Canadian Hadassah WIZO. Their community involvement only widened after



JNF Negev Dinner 1974. l to r: Bert Promislow, Corinne Promislow, Aron Eichler, Ida Eichler, ?? JHSSA #1825

their 1974 honour. Aron went on to become Alberta regional director of State of Israel Bonds and that organization honoured him in 2007. Ida was honoured by CHW in 1991 for her ongoing contributions. In the wider community, Aron and Ida were well known for their roles as Emcees at many musical and cultural events, as leaders of numerous tours to Israel, and for the Voice of Yiddish broadcasts.

In November, Tony Anselmo, president of Canada Safeway, was honoured by State of Israel Bonds, "in recognition of his humanitarianism, exemplary sportsmanship, communal service and friendship to Israel." Anselmo had served in the RAF in the Middle East in WW II. As part of the recognition, event chair Charles Smith and spouse accompanied Mr. & Mrs. Anselmo to Israel as guests of the government. They met with Teddy Kollek and with Golda Meir. Anselmo spoke in Calgary synagogues during Israel Bonds' Rosh Hashana Drive. At the award dinner, which was co-hosted by five Alberta cities and featured a number of Jewish and Christian clergy, Anselmo was presented with the Prime Minister's Medal of the State of Israel. The event, held in the Calgary Convention Centre, was attended by 800 people and raised around 1.4 million dollars in Bonds purchases.

Other 1974 newsworthy people included Harry Cohen, who was named to the Order of Canada, and Muriel Kovitz, who was named Chancellor of the University of Calgary.

The Calgary Jewish Centre cultural activities committee ensured that the needs of the minds as well as the bodies of community members were met. Cultural activities included A Yiddish and Israeli Film Festival and lectures by Rabbi Marvin Hier, Chaim Potok and Meyer Levin, as well as by local scholars. The year's highlight was the Israeli Folk Festival held in November at the Calgary Convention Centre featuring singer Yaffa Yarkoni, the Adler Harmonica Trio and the Sabras.

National Council of Jewish Women's Angel's Ball, themed "Puttin' on the Ritz" raised funds which helped support the Friendship Circle which provided programming for the 125 seniors who met on Tuesdays at the House of Israel.

In 1974, Calgary's National Council of Synagogue Youth (NCSY) group, based at the Shaarey Tzedec, hosted a regional Shabbaton. The 26 local members were joined by 90 teens from Vancouver, Edmonton and Seattle.

The Calgary Hebrew School Library was expanded by a generous donation of \$10,000 by Samuel Helman for the development of a Hebrew Research Library. This gift augmented an earlier donation of \$1000 for the school library.

Calgary welcomed two new members of the clergy and their families to the city. Rabbi Louis and Ruth Tuchman came to the Shaarey Tzedec. Cantor Morris and Pearl Lang officiated at the Beth Israel.



Samuel Joseph Helman 1928. courtesy Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta. N.A. 2982-1JHSSA #1825

Rabbi Lewis Ginsburg, a Rabbi for All of Calgary

by **Sandra Lipton**

During his tenure in Calgary, Rabbi Lewis Ginsburg was not only a beloved religious figure for the local Jewish community, but also a much sought-after speaker, avid sportsman, and active volunteer. Described by *Calgary Herald* columnist Tim Keiser as “Woody Allen in a skullcap”, he was known as “Calgary’s rabbi” and “the Catholic rabbi” for his extensive interfaith activities.

Rabbi Ginsburg was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1923 but grew up in New York. In 1944 he was awarded a BA in Journalism from the University of Minnesota. Rabbi Ginsburg attended Hebrew Theological College in Chicago and The Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in New York for his rabbinical studies, and was ordained in 1952. He served as a rabbi in Edmonton, Saskatoon, and Calgary, as well as very briefly in his birth town of Minneapolis. Aside from a short period in Edmonton, Calgary was his home from 1967 until his passing on November 16, 1993. He worked as rabbi in every synagogue in Calgary in existence in the 1960s to the late 1970s: the Conservative congregation as well as both Orthodox synagogues. (The Reform synagogue, Temple B’nai Tikvah, was not established until 1979.) After he retired from the Beth Israel Synagogue in 1986, Ginsburg continued his pastoral work as a freelance rabbi until health issues prevented him from providing services.

The Rabbi also was employed outside the pastoral field. He was torn between working as a reporter and serving as a rabbi. While at university he wrote sports stories for the *New York Times* and *New York Daily Mirror*, and then for a brief stint after his ordination he became reporter and subsequently editor for the *American Jewish World* weekly newspaper. During the 70s he reviewed books for *The Albertan*, not surprisingly, primarily books on sports! For a few years, the Rabbi served as Executive Director for Century Calgary, formed in 1972 to coordinate and promote activities for the city’s 1975 centennial. In this role, he was instrumental in bringing the Grey Cup game to Calgary, the first time it was played in the west.

While the Rabbi was very involved in the Calgary Jewish community, this article will focus on all his extensive interfaith and broader Calgary community activities.

The very high level of community respect for Rabbi Ginsburg was demonstrated by the large interdenominational attendance at his farewell dinner held January 1972, just four years after his arrival to Calgary. Apparently, though, the Rabbi changed his mind about leaving Calgary, or at least left only very briefly, since on September 2, 1972, *The Albertan* reported “Ginsburg returns to Calgary.” This was not the first time he had announced his departure, only to remain in Calgary. In the fall of 1968, Ginsburg indicated he was returning to his home town, but a few months later announced he was staying because he could not depart Calgary until the Stampeders had won the Grey Cup. The Rabbi was quoted as explaining, “What sincere fan would desert the Stampeders at a time like this. I’ll have to remain here until they do.”



Rabbi Lewis Ginsburg. Gold Photography, Used with permission of Gold Photography.

From childhood, the Rabbi loved all sports, especially wrestling, boxing, and football. Growing up next door to boxer Art Lasky turned the Rabbi into a keen boxing fan. Ginsburg was a personal advisor to Billy McGrandle (Featherweight Boxing Champion of Canada), a judge for professional boxing matches, and a member of the Calgary Wrestling and Boxing Commission, including a stint as acting chair. Rabbi Ginsburg was the first (and maybe only) rabbi in Canada to climb into a ring for charity wrestling matches. In 1976, “The Rasslin Rabbi” teamed up with Olympic Champ Larry Lane in a match against Canadian Wrestling Promoter Stu Hart and renowned Canadian Sportscaster Henry Viney. Mayor Rod Sykes served as referee for this charity boxing fight.

Eloquent and humorous, Rabbi Ginsburg was a much sought after speaker and master of ceremonies wherever he lived. During his time in Calgary, the Rabbi was a key presenter at numerous sports dinners in Calgary and nearby communities as well as at service clubs, associations, and school graduations; well over 130 events in total. Kosher food was not often available at these events. The Rabbi described himself to *Herald* reporter Johnny Hopkins as “the greatest living authority in Calgary on fruit salads.”

Rabbi Ginsburg was in his element at sporting celebrations. One unique event, featuring the Rabbi as MC, was a 1972 sportsman’s dinner sponsored by staff at Bethany Auxiliary Hospital for the patients. Ginsburg was most adept with the one-liners. At a sporting benefit function featuring world amateur Heavyweight Boxing Champion, Willie de Witt, Ginsburg was seated at a table across from the actress Farrah Fawcett, famous through her role in the television show “Charlie’s Angels.” Ginsburg stood up and declared his was “the best seat in the house. I’m going to be

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Rabbi Lewis Ginsburg

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praying to God and looking at one of Charlie's Angels." The Rabbi joined the list of other eminent business and sports figures who have addressed the annual Italian Sportsmen's dinner including Herb Capozzi and Gordie Howe.



Calgary Canucks Awards Night. Vince S. Roska Photography, JHSSA unprocessed Lewis Ginsburg collection. Used with permission of the Roska family.

Rabbi Ginsburg was also a frequent keynote speaker for many different Calgary and area organizations. When he spoke to a group of insurance adjusters, he began his speech with "Be nice to me, I'm keeping you fellows in business." In 1970, *Calgary Herald* columnist Johnny Hopkins commented that the Rabbi "will come a little closer next week to having spoken to every group in Calgary." Hopkins went on to say this about Rabbi Ginsburg: "Among the city's podium performers, he is one of the most gifted, the most entertaining and the fee is right." Freely providing his services appears to have been standard procedure for the Rabbi.

The Rabbi was very much in demand as a speaker at school events for all levels of education and for both the Public and Catholic School Boards. He addressed many graduation classes from both school boards.

He was also often recruited to provide an invocation or grace at meetings and dinners, including the 1982 Tribute Dinner for author and political leader, Grant MacEwan.

Additionally, Ginsburg participated in a number of "roasts", including the 1981 event honouring Mayor Ralph Klein." Norm Edwards from the *Calgary Sun* reported that after the Rabbi's benediction, "We all had the feeling that Ralph had just been roasted by the Almighty." Many civic events such as Remembrance Day Ceremonies and the Calgary and District Foundation Million Dollar Dinner included the Rabbi delivering a benediction.

A notable appearance took place at a 1984 bridal show, with Rabbi Ginsburg providing marriage counselling as part of a panel of experts answering wedding-related questions.

Brotherhood and interdenominational work were among the Rabbi's passions, and he was often mentioned in the news for his ecumenical work. When the outside-city-workers strike of 1978 affected grave diggers (eventually resulting in 99 coffins on ice waiting for burial), Rabbi Ginsburg, as a member of an interdenominational committee, worked for weeks, attempting to get the issue settled. He was a frequent speaker at church events, addressing a variety of Presbyterian, United, Baptist and Catholic Church groups. Former Calgary Mayor Sykes is quoted as saying, "While the House of Jacob may be his congregation, the entire city is his parish." The Rabbi was additionally very active in bringing church groups into the synagogue. By the end of the Rabbi's first year at the Shaarey Tzedec, the synagogue had visits from members of over 14 different churches, and in 1970 the Rabbi organized an ecumenical service at the synagogue with the Catholic Diocese of Calgary's Bishop Paul O'Byrne delivering the sermon.

His work with the Salvation Army included ringing the bells at the Christmas-season kettles, delivering hampers, volunteering at the annual Christmas dinner, and participating in the Red Shield Campaigns. In 1980, he officially opened the Salvation Army Red Shield Campaign — likely the first time a Rabbi kicked off the Salvation Army fundraising efforts. Robert Collins, in his book *The Holy War of Sally Ann: The Salvation Army in Canada*, relates the story of when the Rabbi, as part of his inauguration of the Red Shield Campaign, conducted the Canadian Staff Band in front of Calgary City Hall. The Rabbi, who could not read music, commented that the fact that he finished his conducting at the same time as the band finished the musical piece was "due to their prayers and mine." The Salvation Army bestowed Ginsburg with the title Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel. Rabbi Ginsburg was also involved in interfaith work with non-



JHSSA, unprocessed Lewis Ginsburg Collection.

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Rabbi Lewis Ginsburg

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Christian groups. He helped Calgary Muslims get city approval to build a mosque and was a participant in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Sikh temple. He truly was a “rabbi-at-large.”

The Rabbi was also a committed volunteer for a variety of community groups, and was the first Jewish person to serve as Chair of the Calgary Inter-faith Community Action Committee, as well as the first Jew to serve as Grand Chaplain of the Freemasonry group, the Grand Lodge of Alberta. The Rabbi, his good friend Father Pat O’Byrne (Bishop Paul O’Byrne’s brother), and two other clergy were the genesis of the Calgary Drop-In and Rehabilitation Centre. Rabbi Ginsburg was particularly active in public relations and publicity for a number of groups, including the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Hospital Pastoral Care Association of Alberta, and Miles for Millions. The Rabbi also assumed the role of public relations campaign manager for Father O’Byrne during the Father’s unsuccessful run for a seat in the provincial legislature. In 1982, the Rabbi set up a PR and counseling business with Father O’Byrne.

Ginsburg served as a chaplain for sports associations, such as the Alberta Curling Association, as well as for the local Jewish War Veterans Post No. 2. Within the Jewish community he volunteered as Alberta Chairman for the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training, was a member of the national board of the Canadian United Israel Appeal, a co-chair of the national religious committee of Histadrut, and was the first advisor for the Jewish student group Hillel, at University of Calgary.

The media often referred to the Rabbi as the “bachelor Rabbi,” but he had a longtime girlfriend, Arlene Schacter, whom he finally married in 1984. The party celebrating his marriage was organized by none other than his good friend Father Pat. Apparently, the wedding celebration included a performance of “Danny Boy”, sung by Ginsburg and Bishop Paul O’Byrne.

The world of television and radio was another area of great activity for the Rabbi. As might be expected, his broadcast work focused on sports or religion. In 1974 on Channel 10, he hosted a sports news show “On the Sidelines.” For four years, Rabbi Ginsburg had a TV program “Camera on Calgary”, in which he hosted celebrities and sports figures. He was also featured on Henry Viney’s Sunday afternoon sports telecast, was a guest on the CFCN-TV series “Thought for the Day”, and was involved in the CBC 1969 radio broadcast series “Inter-Faith Pavilion.”

The Rabbi engaged with a number of celebrities. In 1977, Mayor Rod Sykes hosted a lunch for the Calgary visit of King Charles (then Prince Charles). The Mayor selected Rabbi Ginsburg to sit in place of honour beside the Prince when Premier Lougheed indicated he would not be able to attend. Apparently, the Rabbi and the Prince got along “like a proverbial house on fire.” At a 1982 B’nai Brith event, Charlton Heston, the American actor famous for his role as Moses in the film “The Ten Commandments”, addressed the crowd. Rabbi Ginsburg, who spoke before Heston, quipped,

“This was the first time that a rabbi has had the opportunity of introducing Moses.”

Ginsburg gained some notoriety in the 1980s when he engaged with Alberta’s Ku Klux Klan and also supported the Jewish Defence League. Newspaper reports indicate that he joined with local Klan leader Tearlach Mac a’Phearson to form an organization devoted to fighting racism: Alberta Fellowship for World Peace. As a man who devoted his life to the concept of fellowship and interdenominational understanding, the Rabbi saw this outreach to Mac a’Phearson as a step on the route to understanding, noting, “a peace organization with other Jews wouldn’t serve the purpose.”

Respected by so many for his humility and compassion, the Rabbi received numerous awards from the Jewish and broader community for his work. He was honoured in 1976 with the



Rabbi Ginsburg Testimonial Dinner, January 10, 1972. Vince S. Roska Photography, JHSSA unprocessed Lewis Ginsburg collection. Used with permission of Roska family.

Alberta Achievement Award “as an extraordinary humanitarian, religious leader and counsellor, as well as promoter and participant in sports activities.” Other tributes include the Rabbi’s selection as JNF Negev Dinner honoree for 1980, and his 1976 Communication and Leadership Award from the District 42 of the Toastmasters International for his “outstanding civic and religious contributions.”

The Rabbi left a tremendous legacy through his words and actions, in Calgary and beyond. A year following the Rabbi’s death in November 1993, a memorial ceremony at Buchenwald Concentration Camp, conducted by the club of former Allied prisoners held at Buchenwald, included a prayer he had written.

Rabbi Lewis Ginsburg was most proud of his brotherhood activities and encouraged Calgarians to work together. To quote the Rabbi, “As human beings, dedicated service to one another is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on God’s Earth.”

The southern Alberta Jewish Community is located in the traditional territory of the Kainai, Piikani, Siksika, Stoney-Nakoda and Tsuut’ina Nations, and Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3.

JHSSA NEWS

2024 Membership additions and corrections:

Ron and Judy Bing (F), Barrie Carnat (I), Roberta Hulmes (I), Barry Litchinsky (I), Stacy Shaikin (I) and Michael Wenig (P)

In our Inbox: feedback on past programs

We received an email about Harry Sanders' Marda Loop presentation at HCW this August: "It really was a terrific morning with laughs, new stories and a well paced, organized and not too packed program." Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed, and a huge thank you to Harry.

Looking farther in the rearview mirror, additional thanks to all of our *Love Stories* volunteers for their "damn fine performance[s]" in May and June (to quote an email about the June presentation): Laura Shuler, Judy Chetner, Barry Finkelman, Dorothy Hanson and Harvey Silverstone.



Love Stories performance at Montefiore Institute in Heritage Park. June 23, 2024. Source: Irena Karshenbaum.

Dates for your calendar:

October 28, 2024: Save the date! Director and performer, Tracey Erin Smith, is offering an evening workshop at the Calgary JCC on autobiographical and family history writing, in connection with the Theatre Calgary run of the play she Associate Directed, *The Lehman Trilogy*. JHSSA is excited to be a workshop partner. Please watch for full details in Calgary Jewish Federation and JHSSA emails.

November 4, 2024 at 7 p.m.: Please join us at the Calgary JCC or on Zoom, for our **Annual General Meeting**. In addition to our business meeting, we will be continuing our tradition of presenting Certificates of Appreciation to our community's 80-year-olds.

The evening's program will be *The Little Synagogue on the Prairie at Heritage Park: 15 Years of Trailblazing Storytelling*. Founding President of The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society, Irena Karshenbaum will focus on the work that has been done in the fifteen years at Heritage Park pertaining to programming, special events and speaking about Jewish traditions and culture through artefacts.

November 17, 2024 at 1 p.m.: The Jay Joffe Memorial Program

was launched by JHSSA in 2009 to honour the memory of its long-serving founding president, Jay Joffe (1931-2006). This year, the program will again be part of the *Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival* through the sponsorship of "Moses Ezekiel: Portrait of a Lost (Cause) Artist." This film tells the story of Moses Ezekiel, a once renowned and internationally famous Jewish-American sculptor, who had been a Confederate soldier in his youth, before becoming known for creating monumental works of art celebrating the "Lost Cause" myth of the Confederacy. This "timely and provocative documentary" brings his story out of obscurity, while also considering the ongoing and larger issue of how societies deal with monuments that reflect sometimes difficult and divisive history — reflecting Jay Joffe's passions both for bringing the love of Jewish history to the widest possible audience, and for underlining the importance of history and its preservation. We will once again hold a draw at our AGM for two tickets to the film; please renew your JHSSA membership before October 21 to be included.



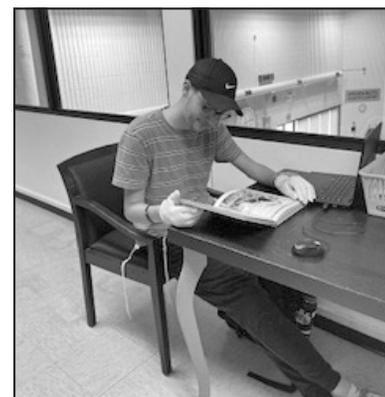
Jay Joffe.

November 24 – December 1, 2024: Jewish Book Festival. Please join us Sunday, December 1, for what is sure to be a fascinating program featuring Lady Esther Gilbert, widow of noted Jewish historian — and Sir Winston Churchill biographer — Sir Martin Gilbert. JHSSA is pleased to cosponsor Lady Gilbert's presentation. Watch for full program details in Book Festival publicity and JHSSA events emails.

JHSSA office news:

We had two excellent summer students this year. Kedem Segal took on numerous small projects in our collections and foam core, along with doing preliminary work on a major upcoming online exhibit project. Melissa Cohen focused on inputting our 11 card file drawers of cemetery records into a spreadsheet (a herculean task). Melissa will be staying on into the fall to work with our backlog of incoming photos. We are also pleased to welcome Jessica Tannenbaum to the office staff this fall on a part-time basis.

If you are interested in volunteering in the JHSSA office, or with our wonderful oral history committee or board, please reach out to jhssa@shaw.ca or 403-444-3171.



Summer student Kedem Segal enjoys discovering one of his favourite illustrators in an item in the JHSSA holdings.

President's Message

by **Sandra Lipton**

Spring and summer 2024 have been a busy time for JHSSA programs. In May, JHSSA presented four programs for Canadian Jewish Heritage month. Two were in partnership with the Calgary Public Library: Irena Karshenbaum spoke on the History of Jewish Farming, and Sandra Lipton on Rabbi Lewis Ginsburg. We also partnered with Beth Tzedec Hazak for a lunch presentation of songs and love stories from our oral histories, and with Temple B'nai Tikvah for Harry Sanders' presentation on the History of Zionism in Calgary. Another version of the love stories program was presented in June at Heritage Park. A big thank you to all our speakers, and to Laura Shuler, Barry Finkleman, Dorothy Hanson, Judy Chetner, and Harvey Silverstone for all their work on the Love Stories events.

We are so grateful to all the volunteers involved in our many projects including oral histories, cemetery files, and photograph collection; we were especially pleased to honour Judy Shapiro with a 2024 Shem Tov Award for all her dedicated work with our oral histories, photograph collection, and *Discovery*.

Grants and donations are critical to the implementation of our various projects. This spring and summer we were honoured to receive four grants. Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary awarded us two grants, allowing us to purchase a much-needed new cabinet for our subject files and to convert our online walking tour into a format suitable for digital text publication and future print publication. We were also honoured to receive a grant from the JCFC Teen Philanthropy Fund in support of an early step in a major, multi-phase project to improve access to our photo collection. The Historical Society of Alberta awarded us a grant to create an online exhibit of our local family histories: watch for more information in 2025, as the second stage of this project will need your input! Thanks to Katie for all her work in putting these grant requests together. We are also most

grateful to B'nai Brith Calgary Lodge No. 816 for their generous sponsorship supporting this issue of *Discovery*. Additionally, we so appreciate recent generous donations from the Chevra Kadisha of Calgary and from two funds administered by JCFC. These donations are critical, allowing us to meet the equipment and staffing needs to support our projects and ongoing operation.

JHSSA is also most appreciative of our Life and Legacy donors who are ensuring future support for JHSSA. With 56 individuals/couples committing to leaving a legacy to date, we have generated a projected future endowment of over a million dollars. If you are not yet a Life and Legacy donor, please consider securing the future of JHSSA through this program.

As we start our new membership year, I thank our new and renewed members. Nothing in this society would happen without you. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining us in keeping our history alive. Thank you so much to all our members, volunteers, board, and staff for your support and dedication.

I hope to see you on November 4 for our AGM.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 5785.



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DISCOVERY

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

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