



# ACJS BULLETIN

## President's Message

Dear members and friends of the ACJS,

Our 2010 conference in Montreal (May 30 to June 1) was another success. Our partnership with the Jewish Public Library of Montreal on the first day allowed us to open our sessions to interested members of the Montreal community. We returned to Concordia University for a number of lively sessions the following two days.

Thank you to Professor Rebecca Margolis for her tireless work in putting this conference together. Thank you also to the Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies for its support of our conference and to Professors Ira Robinson and Norman Ravvin for their key assistance in coordinating the local arrangements in Montreal.

Congratulations to Eiran Harris for receiving the 2010 Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award. The ACJS proudly recognizes the exceptional role Eiran Harris has played in preserving and disseminating the history of Jewish Montreal and Canada and in assisting the research of countless scholars of the Canadian Jewish experience, both amateur and professional.

Thanks to a generous donation by Gary Davis, we were again able to establish an award for the best student paper of our conference. The 2010 award and \$250 prize were granted to Faith Jones of the University of British Columbia for her paper entitled: “*Di ershte un greste Yidishe bukh stor*”: Miller’s Books advertising, 1910-1920.” Congratulations, Faith!

In 2011, the student paper award will be renamed the Marcia Koven Award. This award is sponsored by friends and relatives of Marcia Koven, who is the founder of the Saint John Jewish Historical Society and the creator of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum. The award, which is based on the oral presentation of a paper at our conference, will be granted based on the scholarly quality of the paper and its contribution to the



DR. RANDAL F. SCHNOOR

field of Canadian Jewish studies. It will be adjudicated by a committee made up of the ACJS Executive and senior scholars in the field.

Planning for our next annual conference is well underway. It will be held at the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University in Fredericton, May 29 to 31, 2011.

As you may be aware, from 1940 to 1941 German and Austrian Jews were held in a New Brunswick internment camp, approximately 25 kilometres east of Fredericton. A panel discussion on this chapter of Canadian Jewish history will serve as one of the highlights of the upcoming conference.

The nearby town of Minto, New Brunswick, houses an internment camp museum. It is possible that we will arrange for conference delegates to visit this museum. Details to follow.

Please see a general Call for Papers in this bulletin and send your proposal to our program chair, Rebecca Margolis.

Please note that we have not raised the membership fees for ACJS in several years. In order to offset our rising costs we have instituted a modest increase in dues for 2011. As you will see from your membership renewal form, this increase will apply to general memberships, while fees for seniors, students and the unwaged will remain unchanged. ■

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## About Us

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies/l'Association des études juives canadiennes was founded in 1976 as the Canadian Jewish Historical Society/Société d'histoire juive canadienne. Its goal is to encourage scholarly research in Canadian Jewish history, life and culture through academic disciplines.

It is a national association with headquarters in Montreal and is affiliated with historical organizations and institutions throughout Canada.

This newsletter is written for organizations and individuals with a particular interest in Canadian Jewish studies.

Comments, news, announcements, and reviews can be emailed to Susan Landau-Chark at [silandauchark@gmail.com](mailto:silandauchark@gmail.com).

The ACJS website: [www.acjs-aejc.ca](http://www.acjs-aejc.ca).

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## Membership Renewal & Bulletin Delivery

**ALL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS  
TO THE ASSOCIATION  
CAN NOW BE MADE ONLINE USING PAYPAL.  
SIMPLY GO TO [WWW.ACJS-AEJC.CA](http://WWW.ACJS-AEJC.CA) TO RENEW.**

### ALSO NOTE...

Please read the enclosed membership form carefully. It asks you to decide if you would like to receive the Bulletin via email only.

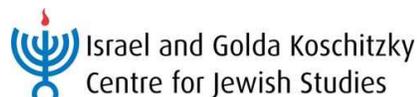
At the annual AGM it was decided to gradually move to sending the Bulletin by email. In the first year we are asking who would like email only. Only those respondents would receive the Bulletin by email.

In autumn 2011 you will be asked if you still wish to receive a hard copy by mail. At that time, the hard copy will be sent only to those checking the appropriate box.

This year you are being asked if you would like to receive the ACJS Bulletin by email.

Bulletins received by email will be in colour whereas, due to costs, the mailed hard copies will continue to be in black and white.

**THANK YOU** to the following institutions for their support of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies: **Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies; Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies** (York University); **University of Toronto Centre for Jewish Studies**; and **Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program** (University of Ottawa).



מרכז למדעי היהדות  
Centre for Jewish Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



# Conserving Canadian Jewish Heritage

By Barry Stiefel

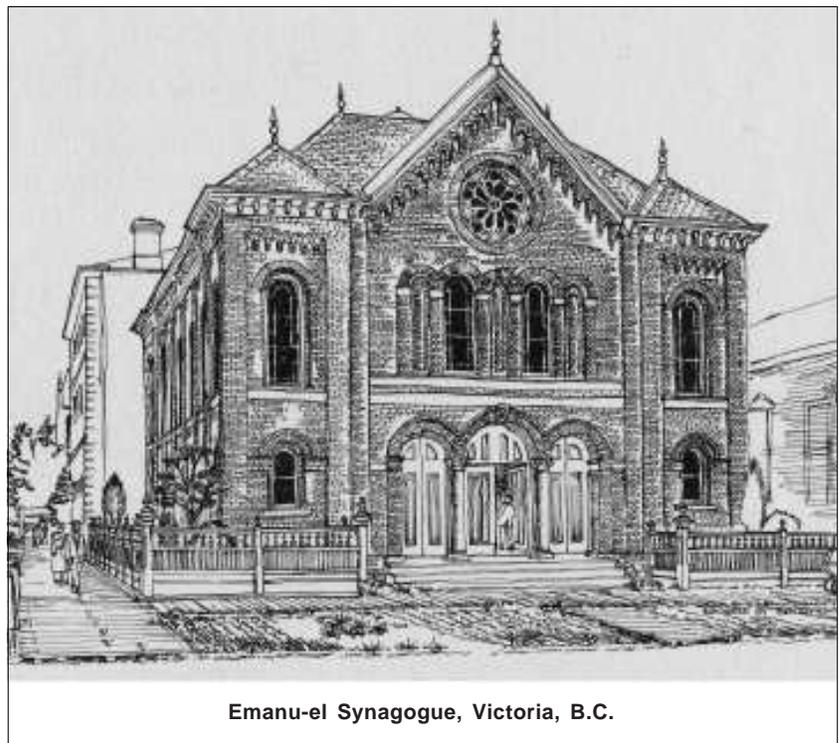
**A**t the 2010 Association for Canadian Jewish Studies annual conference, the members of the association voted to create a new ad hoc committee on museums and heritage. This committee will enable the Association to more fully fulfill its mission “to promote and disseminate historical research concerning the engagement of Jews to Canadian society.”

Recently, the ad-hoc committee created a web page on the Association’s website, called “Heritage Preservation” ([www.acjs-aejc.ca/heritage.html](http://www.acjs-aejc.ca/heritage.html)), which recognizes Jewish heritage sites of national significance.

The web page also offers a resource guide to owners of Jewish heritage properties to assist with the identification and preservation of properties, sites, and districts related to Canadian Jewish heritage.

In order to raise awareness concerning Jewish heritage sites, some of the information found on the web page appears below.

Within Canada, the highest recognition a heritage property or site can obtain is a listing in the Canadian Register of Historic Places. Many provincial, territorial and municipal governments also have their own respective



Emanu-el Synagogue, Victoria, B.C.

Property/Site Name	Location
Emanu-el Synagogue	Victoria, British Columbia
Beth Israel Synagogue	Willow Creek, Saskatchewan
Tiferes Israel Synagogue	Moncton, New Brunswick
Shaarei Zedek Synagogue/Calvin Church	Saint John, New Brunswick
Beth Israel Cemetery	Quebec City, Quebec
Tullymet Jewish Cemetery	Tullymet, Saskatchewan
Lipton Jewish Cemetery	Lipton, Saskatchewan
Tiferes Israel Cemetery	Dieppe, New Brunswick
Historic Districts	Location
Kensington Market	Toronto, Ontario
The Main	Montreal, Quebec
<i>Last updated October 2010</i>	

registries. The contact information for the provincial level departments is listed as part of the ACJS Resource Guide.

The table at left is an extracted listing of Jewish properties and sites in the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

ACJS acknowledges that there are many heritage properties, sites, and districts related to Canadian Jewish heritage that are in need of assistance related to recognition, conservation, maintenance, funding, etc. The resource guide found on the web page is compiled for owners of Jewish heritage properties in Canada to provide them with assistance. These resources are *not* provided by ACJS but by government agencies and non-profit organizations that specialize in heritage conservation. ■

## From our regions

### *The West...*

**IN VANCOUVER**, changes are afoot as the Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia celebrated its 40th anniversary (see sidebar). Over the past year, a federal grant enabled the Jewish Historical Society of B.C. to redevelop the Jewish Museum and Archives website ([www.jewishmuseum.ca](http://www.jewishmuseum.ca)). The online archive of community history features videos, photographs, artifacts and audio clips. As a consequence of this process, the Society has decided to devote its funds and energy to further developing this website with the ultimate goal of developing a virtual museum of B.C. Jewish history.

The Jewish Historical Society of B.C. will continue to operate the Nemetz Jewish Community Archives, a vast and growing repository of documents and photographs pertaining to the history of Jewish families and organizations in British Columbia. Through the generosity of the Dayson family, virtually rent-free archival processing and storage space has been secured in Richmond. Researchers will continue to be able to arrange to consult these archival materials at the Society's headquarters in Vancouver.

In addition, the Jewish Historical Society plans to expand its current program of displaying artifacts, documents and photographs from its collections in mini-exhibits at various locations throughout the province. For those planning to visit Vancouver, note that the Jewish Museum exhibit galleries closed December 2, 2010. The Jewish Historical Society will continue to offer its historic walking tours of Jewish Vancouver and Victoria, which run during the summer months, and to operate its active program of educational and outreach activities. (See story at right.)

**IN EDMONTON, Debbie Shoctor**, archivist for the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (JAHSENA), reports on a new publication called "Our Stories: of Abrahamic inter-faith harmony and cooperation in and around Edmonton, Alberta." This publication was produced by the Phoenix Multi-Faith Society for Harmony, which is a society to which JAHSENA belongs, along with other Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders in the city of Edmonton. The publication contains stories about cooperation among different faith groups. The stories in this volume demonstrate that people of different faiths and backgrounds can work together to fight racial discrimination and can live harmoniously. It was

### JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF B.C. CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

Early in 1970, historian Cyril Leonoff and a small group of people convened to discuss the possibility of starting a Jewish historical society in British Columbia. With assistance from the National Council of Jewish Women and the Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region, this



First Executive meeting, Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C., November 26, 1970.  
Left to right: Sam Promislow, Muren Schachter, Eudelle Wall, Lilly Hamer, Cyril Leonoff. Jewish Museum & Archives of B.C.; L.13397.

small group of interested individuals founded the Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia (JHSBC) on November 26, 1970.

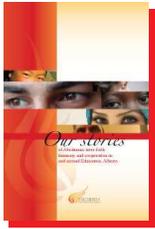
Over the years the Society's work has included publishing a regular journal, *The Scribe*, authoring several books, recording oral histories of community members throughout the province, and preserving and making accessible the important photographs and records of the Jewish community through dynamic exhibits and educational programs.

Through its website, the JHSBC has created an interactive online archive of community history.

In an effort to more effectively implement its mandate to bring the story of the Jews of British Columbia to a wide variety of audiences in different communities, the permanent gallery in the Jewish Community Centre has closed, and the Jewish Historical Society will operate its active program of educational and outreach activities from a new, smaller headquarters in a convenient location (to be announced) in Vancouver.

The Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia looks forward to the next 40 years and to ensuring its future as a lively organization connecting history, people and ideas for generations to come.

For more information, contact (604) 257-5199, visit [www.jewishmuseum.ca](http://www.jewishmuseum.ca) or email [info@jewishmuseum.ca](mailto:info@jewishmuseum.ca).



funded through a grant from the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund of the City of Edmonton. The Jewish writers featured are Debbie Shoctor, Paula Kirman and the late Harold Rodnunsky, z'l. Edited by Marvin Abugov and Debbie Shoctor, it contains stories from the three communities about how they have cooperated in Edmonton over the years.



**IN CALGARY,** Agi Romer Segal informed the ACJS that the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta just marked its 20th anniversary at its October annual general meeting with the Alberta Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, Lindsay Blackett, as guest speaker.

## Ontario ...

**IN TORONTO,** Ellen Scheinberg, Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA) director, is proud to announce that the OJA is now part of the new social media craze with its blog called "Archival Missives." OJA summer intern Catherine Caughell set up the site (<http://ontariojewisharchives.blogspot.com/>) for the purpose of keeping the public and researchers up to date with regard to OJA activities. Already one of its recent postings was very beneficial to a Ph.D. student who became aware of a recent OJA addition that was relevant to his research. Currently the OJA is working on a home-movie event which is summarized in the blog.

Feel free to check it out and sign up as a follower. OJA is hoping that this new tool will enable the organization to reach out to a new audience of young people and keep current clients up to date with new initiatives, acquisitions and developments within the OJA. The interactive component will also provide them with useful feedback. Ellen also notes that as the blog is always kept current, it has become a very effective and efficient vehicle to promote OJA programs and convey information to the community.

Also in Toronto, **Judith Cohen** presented at the American Jewish Studies conference in Boston in December 2010 in a session devoted to Crypto-Jewish issues. She spoke on the music in the life of Portuguese Crypto-Jews.

This past summer (2010), she and her daughter Tamar Ilana performed Sephardic songs at Cordoba's Sephardic festival and Barcelona's Monasterio-Museu de Pedralbes as well as at Madrid's Espacio Ronda.

In spring of 2011, Judith will take up the first fellowship to be offered by the Kluge Foundation, for work with the Spanish collection of Alan Lomax, at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C, in the spring and summer months. Interested students can take individual classes in

"Ashkenaz/Sephardic singing" from Judith through York University's music department.

The second volume of the *Journal of Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian Crypto Jews* (JOSPIC-J) contains Judith's article "Maria, Sister of Aaron, Play Your Tambourine: Music in the Lives of Crypto Jewish Women in Portugal" (spring 2010), reprinted with permission from/ Tamar Alexander, ed. *Gender and Identity* / : /El Prezente : Studies in Sephardic Culture /3. Be'er Sheva: University of Ben Gurion Press: 293-314.

**IN OTTAWA,** congratulations to **Seymour Mayne**. His book of selected poems, rendered into Hebrew by Moshe Dor, has been chosen to receive the 2010 J.I. Segal Award for the Translation of a Book on a Jewish Theme. This major collection by the poet is entitled *Leensok letoch haor hachi chazak: Mevchar shirim* [Fly Off Into the Strongest Light: Selected Poems] (Keshev Publishing House).

Also, mazal tov and congratulations to Professor Seymour Mayne, a poet and literary scholar par excellence and a very good teacher, who was the 2010 recipient of the Faculty of Arts (University of Ottawa) Professor of the Year Award. ■



## New from GASPEREAU PRESS

A New Novel by  
Norman Ravvin

# The Joyful Child

with illustrations by  
Melanie Boyle



*The Joyful Child*  
NORMAN RAVVIN

In his third novel, Norman Ravvin writes about a father and his young son, and the companionship they develop at home and on the road. Returning to the wanderlust of his travelogue *Hidden Canada*, Ravvin follows the inter-connections of urban living, the experience of travel and abandonment, and a man's love of neighbourhoods, of jazz and old cars.

Norman Ravvin's story collection *Sex, Skyscrapers, and Standard Yiddish* won the K.M. Hunter Emerging Artist Award. His novel *Café des Westons* won the Alberta Multiculturalism New Fiction Award. He is also the author of *Hidden Canada: An Intimate Travelogue* and the editor of *Not Quite Mainstream: Canadian Jewish Short Stories*. He lives with his wife and family in Montreal, where he teaches and writes.

ISBN 9781554470877  
Fiction \$24.95

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CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES

2011-2012 Fellowships and Awards  
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 29 APRIL 2011

**Institute Graduate Fellowships in Canadian Jewish Studies**

**\$5,000 for M.A. study / \$7,500 for Ph.D. study**

Must be a full-time student in an M.A. or a Ph.D. programme at Concordia University.

Major portion of study devoted to the Canadian Jewish Experience.

**Yaacov Zipper Award \$1,000**

Students working on Jewish Studies with a preference given to those planning to use the archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress in Montreal.

**Naïm Mahlab Fellowship \$7,500 (approximate value, 2 annual awards)**

M.A. or Ph.D. work in Canadian Jewish Studies

(Preference for work related to anti-Semitism and its roots)

**Romek Hornstein Memorial Award \$3,100 (approximate value, 2 annual awards)**

M.A. or Ph.D. work in any area of Jewish Studies

**Wetstein Fellowship \$1,250**

M.A. or Ph.D. work in Canadian Jewish Studies

**Application Details: Please submit the following to the Institute by the 29<sup>TH</sup> of April 2011**

**(NB Applicants must be full-time Concordia students)**

- Application Form - Available at <http://portico.concordia.ca/jchair/>
- 500 word letter / essay of introduction. Include information on work completed to date; plan of future research; relevance of your academic programme to the study of the award in question; and, summary of thesis.
- Current CV
- Copy of writing sample related to the particular award
- All undergraduate and graduate transcripts
- At least 2 letters of reference from suitable sources

**For additional information, please contact:**

The Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies

SB-215, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal, QC, H3G 1M8

Tel.: (514) 848-2424 ext. 8760, E-mail: [cjs@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:cjs@alcor.concordia.ca) Information:

<http://portico.concordia.ca/jchair/>



## ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES 2011 CONFERENCE

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS) will be holding its 35th Annual Conference May 29-31, 2011, at the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University in Fredericton as part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The conference provides a platform for original scholarly research in Canadian Jewish history, life and culture.

Individuals are invited to send proposals for learned paper presentations twenty minutes in length that concern some aspect of the Canadian Jewish experience. With a Congress 2011 theme of "Coasts and Continents: Exploring Peoples and Places," proposals that touch upon Canadian Jewish intercultural and transnational connections are encouraged.

Potential presenters are asked to submit a paper proposal by **Wednesday, January 15, 2011**. The paper proposal should comprise a 400-word abstract formulated to clearly and concisely state the main argument of the scholarly paper and indicate how it will contribute to existing scholarship in the field of Canadian Jewish studies. It should also include a bibliography of relevant sources. The abstract should be sent as a .doc or .rtf attachment, double-spaced in Times New Roman font, with the paper title clearly indicated at the top. The name, affiliation, address, telephone number and email of the potential presenter as well as the title of the proposed paper should be located in the body of the email only (and not in the attached abstract).

All proposals will receive anonymous peer review, after which point communication with presenters will occur by February 15, 2011.

All presenters must be paid 2011 members of ACJS at the time that proposals are submitted. Proposals from individuals who are not 2011 members of ACJS will not be reviewed. Membership information for ACJS can be found on our website.

Partial financial support to defray travel and accommodations costs is available for presenters who have been members of the ACJS for at least one full

calendar year prior to January 2011 (i.e. presenters must be in good standing for both 2010 and 2011 to be eligible for support). University students are exempt from this requirement and are also eligible for additional top-up support. In all cases, because ACJS support funds are limited, presenters (including students) are expected to apply first to their host institutions for whatever funds may be available to them locally. Applications for financial support, which will be sent to eligible presenters along with the notice of acceptance of their paper proposal, will be due the first week of March, with results to be communicated by the end of March.

The best student paper of the conference will be granted the Marcia Koven Award, which is accompanied by a cash prize. The award, which is based on the oral presentation of the paper, will be granted based on the scholarly quality of the paper and its contribution to the field of Canadian Jewish studies.

As the ACJS annual conference is part of the larger national conference body called the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, ACJS conference participants whose paper proposals have been accepted must register in advance for the Congress by paying the required fees for both the general Congress registration and the ACJS conference registration. Early-bird registration rates are available before April 1, 2011. Participants will receive details on registration from the Program Chair and are also invited to consult the Congress 2011 website for details. Please note that presentations from individuals who have not pre-registered for the Congress and ACJS Conference will not be included in the Conference program.

Please email proposals to Professor Rebecca Margolis, Program Chair, [margoli@uottawa.ca](mailto:margoli@uottawa.ca). ■



## ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT MAY 30–JUNE 1, 2010

*By Garry Smolyansky*

**T**he 34th annual Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Conference took place in the beautiful city of Montreal, in association with the Montreal Jewish Public Library and Concordia University, both of which served as venues for the conference. We commend the organizers of the conference for their outstanding and meticulous planning which allowed for the event to run so smoothly.

### IMMIGRANT LIFE

The first panel of the community day, in the Montreal Jewish Public Library, focused on Canadian Jewish immigrant life. **Howard Gontovnick** started the session off by exploring the intricate and complex nature of the Jewish agricultural settlement movement in Canada in the 1920s and 1930s. He argued that it was a method of “productivizing” the Jewish image, therefore allowing new immigrants to integrate more easily into Canadian society and lower anti-Semitic sentiments.

Continuing with the idea of Eastern European Jewish immigration to Canada, **Rachel Levy** shared her research on the growth of the Kingston, Ontario, Jewish community during the 1890s. Combining archival materials from different sources, she was able to reveal new and fascinating patterns on the growth of the predominantly young collective, which she argued to be an excellent model of the development of a Jewish community in a small-town setting.

### YIDDISH CULTURE

**Faith Jones** then carried the audience westward to Miller’s bookstore in Winnipeg at the turn of the 20th century to examine the development and evolution of Jewish culture in the area through clippings from local Yiddish newspapers. The store was a core of social and cultural activity in the area and therefore could have been used as an excellent marker to track the progress and growth of Yiddish prairie culture.

Continuing the discourse about Yiddish culture on a musical note was **Emily Lam**. She challenged the notion of labelling Eastern European music played in Montreal as Klezmer.

Her research indicated that it had become a new hybrid of the musical genre, one which built on the traditions of the old country but welcomed the sounds of the new Canadian life as experienced by the musicians.

### RELIGIOUS LIFE

After a short lunch break, a joint panel by the ACJS and the CSJS on rabbis and religious life in Canada continued the academic discourse that began in the morning. **Ira Robinson** started off the group by presenting a scandalous case of a Montreal rabbi who was accused in 1931 of supporting anti-Semitic riots in Poland. Ira shared his research in the form of a narrative, engrossing the audience in a mystery case, much like a good novel with an unpredictable ending.

**Steven Lapidus** followed up with a more ironic piece on rabbinic strife in the mid-20th century in Montreal. He discussed the tensions between the long established Va’ad council and the newly arrived Carpathian Hassidic Jews and their never-ending confrontations regarding kosher meat and butchers, most of which yielded success for the Hassidic Jews as the Va’ad tried to appease the newly arrived community while trying to maintain the illusion of total control over Jewish religious affairs in Montreal.

Following the tracks of Hassidic Jewish communities in Canada, **Justin Jaron Lewis** told the audience about his research and travel to the community of Tosh and its yeshiva. Lewis focused his discussion on the importance of the Rebbe of Tosh to the Jews of the community as well as the idea that the level of loyalty and observance varied but that the teaching of the Rebbe was a unifying element for all the residents of this isolated Hassidic community.

### CHAVA ROSENFARB

Continuing with the memories of Yiddish culture in Canada, a panel about poet Chava Rosenfarb was up next. **Rebecca Margolis** began the session by challenging the argument that Rosenfarb was a Yiddish writer who wrote Yiddish for no one. This idea was articulated by Ms. Rosenfarb herself and referred to the declining Yiddish audience in Canada. However, Margolis argued that

Rosenfarb was wrong, and in fact was for most of her life living in an isolated Yiddish milieu in Montreal where the culture flourished and grew, showing no real signs of stagnation, as Rosenfarb had expressed. **Esther Frank** explored Rosenfarb's collection of short stories titled *Survivors*, using the Morgentaler translation. She emphasized that Rosenfarb was very skilful in using the short form to explore her own life, identity and culture in a post-Holocaust Canadian context in order to push forward the message of hope and rebuilding after a tragic loss. The audience was then treated to several readings of Rosenfarb's poetry by her daughter **Goldie Morgentaler**, who tried to convey a more experiential feeling of the poet's composition by reading aloud her works. Some of the themes she explored were of praise, mother-child relations, extremes, growing up during war, unhappiness, death and exile. Here we discovered through Morgentaler's help that although Rosenfarb's poems often seem to talk about common day-to-day events, they always have a double meaning that has its roots in her Holocaust experiences.

#### EIRAN HARRIS

The ACJS annual banquet took place in the evening, honouring **Eiran Harris** of Montreal with the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award for his "exceptional work in preserving and disseminating the history of Jewish Montreal and Canada and assisting scholars to explore the Canadian Jewish experience in the Montreal Jewish Public Library's Archives." The evening was filled with celebrations and toasts and was very well attended.

#### JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS

On the second day of the conference there was a change of scenery as the remaining sessions took place on the campus of Concordia University. The fourth session was a joint ACJS-CSJS panel on Jewish-Québécois relationships. **Barry Stiefel** took the audience on a picturesque tour of the similarities and difference between Montreal and Louisiana synagogue architecture between 1865 and 1920. Using images of both Quebec and Louisiana houses of worship, he explored concepts of urban versus rural and population size in relation to the number of synagogues and their locations in the territory.

**Pierre Anctil** then shared his research on the literary critiques of H.M. Caiserman of French Canada. **Sharon Gubbay Helfer** began a discussion about David Rome and his troubled legacy in the Canadian history books. Although seen as a bridge between immigration and integration and between Jews and Christians, David had a troubled past, having been dismissed as the director of the Jewish Public

Library of Montreal in 1975. The presentation also used multimedia to present interviews of various Jewish and non-Jewish figures who were involved with Rome.

#### HOLOCAUST STUDIES

The fifth session of the conference was also a joint panel between the ACJS and the CSJS titled "Canadian Holocaust Studies." **Richard Menkis** got the panel off to an excellent start by sharing his research on Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath's campaign to inform both Canadian Jews and non-Jews of the harsh anti-Semitism that was taking place in Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1936. Those in attendance learned that although Rabbi Eisendrath tirelessly tried to convince the Canadian government to boycott the Olympics in Berlin, his campaign was not successful due to the clever cover-up of anti-Semitism by the Nazi state and the eventual creation of a positive German image leading up to the games in 1936. Next was **Anna Sheftel**, who with **Stacey Zembrzycki**

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*We congratulate  
these researchers  
for awakening such  
an intense interest in  
a new topic and  
sharing it with us.*

---

shared research on social spaces created in Montreal by Holocaust survivors for one another in the latter 1940s and early 1950s. Sheftel argued that although the Montreal Jewish community provided a warm welcome to survivors, it was not enough to tend to the specific needs and interests of these children and youth. Zembrzycki stated that their research revealed that German Jewish youth survivors created social spaces, the most famous being the "New World Club." As its membership aged, the clubs became stagnant and eventually shut down. However this brief period of self-sustained organization played an important role in the formation of identity and cultural preservation of these young survivors.

**Adara Goldberg** was last in the session, presenting a well-researched paper about the tension and frustrations between newly arrived Orthodox men to Canada and the aid organizations, such as JVS and JIAS, which tried to help them ease into Canadian living. As the East European Orthodox community required its male members to follow a specific way of life, this created difficulties for case workers in the Jewish associations that were charged with helping



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Submissions are invited for an online periodical **WOMEN IN JUDAISM: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL**

The journal is published exclusively on the Internet as a forum for scholarly debate on gender-related issues in Judaism. The ultimate aim of the journal is to promote the reconceptualization of the study of Judaism by acknowledging and incorporating the roles played by women and by encouraging the development of alternative research paradigms. It is particularly intended to advance critical analysis of gender inequalities within Jewish religion, history, culture and society, both ancient and modern. The journal does not promote a fixed ideology, and welcomes a variety of approaches. The material may be cross-methodological or interdisciplinary.

**Articles, essays, book reviews, short notes and bibliographies from all disciplines in the humanities and social sciences are welcome. Submissions for the fall and spring issues are concurrently accepted and should be made by email or by regular mail to:**

Dr. Dina Ripsman Eylon, Editor-in-Chief  
*Women in Judaism: A Multidisciplinary Journal*  
1136-3 Centre Street, Suite 246  
Thornhill, ON L4J 3M8 Canada  
Email: dina.eylon@utoronto.ca  
<http://www.womeninjudaism.org>

We are also seeking book reviewers. A complete list of books is available in our Review Books Received section, which is updated periodically. For further information and guidelines for contributors, please consult our web site or write to the Editor-in-Chief.

## Network for Research in Jewish Education 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference



The **NETWORK FOR RESEARCH IN JEWISH EDUCATION** announces its 25th Annual Conference, to be held at York University, Toronto, Canada, **June 12-14, 2011**.

Submissions are invited for presentation at this year's conference, to be hosted by the Israel & Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies and the Faculty of Education of York University. Submissions are welcome from all those interested and involved in research in Jewish education, broadly understood to encompass quantitative and qualitative research (ethnography, case studies, narrative inquiry, surveys, philosophical, conceptual, theoretical, historical, etc.) on topics of relevance to Jewish education (subject matter, curriculum, teaching and learning, administration, policy, financing, teacher preparation, sociology, culture, identity, etc.) in any setting (schools, synagogues, camps, higher education, adult education, informal learning contexts, popular culture, etc.).

The conference will provide a forum for researchers and practitioners in Jewish education to present and discuss current research. The program will include presentations of basic and applied research, in addition to practice-based research. Practitioners are encouraged to present projects of action research, self-study, or related forms of inquiry. Collaborations between practitioners and academic researchers are welcome.

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Submissions must be received by **January 3, 2011**. Submissions will only be accepted from 2011 members of the NRJE. To become a member or to renew your membership follow the directions on the NRJE website at <http://www.jesna.org/our-work/nrje>. For information concerning submissions, contact Jonathan Krasner, Program Chair, at [NRJEprogramchair@gmail.com](mailto:NRJEprogramchair@gmail.com). Details about conference registration will be available on the NRJE website at [www.nrje.org](http://www.nrje.org) in spring 2011.

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them become self-sufficient or at least less reliant on the aid organizations.

#### JEWIS AND MULTICULTURALISM

The sixth session of the conference, titled “Roundtable: Jews/Multiculturalism/Canada” explored “critical Canadian Jewish studies” from a multicultural perspective. A collection of innovative and bright minds graced this panel: **Sheryll Nestel**, **David S. Koffman**, **Michele Byers** and **Stephanie Tara Schwartz**. The panellists explored questions such as: Why are Jews excluded from Canadian media studies? Why are Jews ignored in Canadian multicultural studies? Are Jews considered “white,” and if so, when did they become “white”? Are Jews seen as a collective or are they seen as separate entities?

Respondents **Richard Menkis** and **Norman Ravvin** added to the discussion by stating that the critical analysis of Jews in relation to multiculturalism will help to revisit Canadian Jewish history in a different and more critical lens as well as to decide if Jews are a “settled issue” in terms of discrimination and taboo. This new think tank sparked such excitement in the room that many stayed after the session to pose questions and explore ideas. We congratulate these researchers for awakening such an intense interest in a new topic and sharing it with us.

#### MERVIN BUTOVSKY REMEMBERED

This long day of intellectual labour was followed by a reception in memory of Mervin Butovsky z’l, hosted by the Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies in the Religious Studies Department of Concordia University.

#### JEWISH IDENTITY

The seventh panel, entitled “The Boundaries of Jewishness,” started off the last day of the conference. **Stephanie Tara Schwartz** engaged the audience in a heated discussion about the limits of Jewish identity, using the short film “Fresh Blood” to explore questions of contradictory identities, Orientalism and secular Jewish beginnings. Schwartz used the contradictions encountered by the main character of the movie, an Arab-Jew trying to understand the nature of her identity by traveling back to Israel. **Shelly Nixon** then took us on a cultural cross-country trip by exploring the use of Jewish symbols in museums throughout Canada in order to create and define boundaries of Jewishness through material culture. She used four criteria to divide and analyze her findings, concluding that Jewish identity across Canada differs and there is still much research to be done on the topic.

#### ZIONISM

Leading the eighth session, “New Directions in Canadian Jewish Studies,” was **Phil Gold**. His presentation explored the different angles of the Zionist Association for men and women during the turn of the 20th century. He argued that Zionism was an excellent bridge between the Eastern European arrivals and the locally established pro-Zionist Jewish community.

#### WOMEN AND THE SOVIET JEWRY MOVEMENT

**Susan Landau-Chark** shared her fascinating work on the Ottawa chapter of the Group of 35, an international movement consisting of women only that began in the 1970s to advocate for the human rights of Soviet Jews. She argued that the Group of 35 allowed Jewish women to play a non-traditionalist role outside the home and empowered women through the medium of advocacy.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Transitioning from women’s issues in the 1970s to women’s issues today was **Robin Bergart**, who explored Jewish identity through the social media website J-Date. Bergart used the website to look at how Canadian Jews choose to identify themselves online.

She concluded, however, that due to the restrictive nature of the options given by the website in terms of identity selection and the inconsistency of its user biographies, no clear pattern could be established about the “typical online Canadian Jew.”

#### ARCHIVAL WORK

Organized by Janice Rosen and other archivists, session nine was a celebration of archival work titled “Canadian Jewish Archives Out Loud: Illustrated Readings.” This panel was both intellectually intriguing and fast-paced, at the same time keeping the audience’s attention. **Shannon Hodge** (JPL-Archives, Montreal), **Laurie Dougherty** (Ottawa Jewish Archives, Ottawa), **Ava Block-Super** (JHCWC, Winnipeg), **Agi Romer Segal** (JHS of Southern Alberta, Calgary) and **Jennifer Yuhasz** (JHS of B.C., Vancouver) partook in the panel. They each selected several readings from their archival collections and shared them with those in attendance. The combination of oral narration and visual stimulation brought the primary materials to life and invoked great discussion from both panellists and audience members.

A round of applause is much deserved for the conference organizers for putting together three amazing days of learning on mind-boggling topics. We look forward to seeing you next year as we host the 35th ACJS annual conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick! ■



**ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDES JUIVES CANADIENNES**

c/o DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY  
1455 DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD. WEST  
MONTREAL, QUEBEC H3G 1M8

**ACJS/AEJC AFFILIATED SOCIETIES & INSTITUTIONS**

(Asterisks denote institutional members)

**Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee  
National Archives**

Dr. Norma Joseph, CJCCC National Archives Chair  
Janice Rosen, CJCCC National Archives Director  
1590 avenue Docteur Penfield  
Montreal, QC H3G 1C5  
Phone: 514-931-7531 ext. 2; Fax: 514-931-0548  
Email: [jrosen@cjccc.ca](mailto:jrosen@cjccc.ca)  
Website: [www.ciccc.ca](http://www.ciccc.ca)

**Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies \***

Dr. Norman Ravvin, Chair  
Department of Religion  
Concordia University  
FA-101, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West  
Montreal, QC H3G 1M8  
Phone: 514-848-2424 ext. 8760; Fax: 514-848-8776  
Email: [cis@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:cis@alcor.concordia.ca)  
Website: <http://web2.concordia.ca/jchair/>

**Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies \***

Prof. Eric Lawee, Acting Director  
763 York Research Tower  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3  
Phone: 416-736-5823; Fax: 416-736-5344  
Email: [lawee@yorku.ca](mailto:lawee@yorku.ca)  
Website: [www.yorku.ca/cjs/contact.html](http://www.yorku.ca/cjs/contact.html)

**Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton &  
Northern Alberta**

Jini Vogel, President  
Debby Shocter, Archivist  
7200 - 156 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5R 1X3  
Phone: 780-489-2809; Fax: 780-481-1854  
Email: [jahsena@shaw.ca](mailto:jahsena@shaw.ca)  
Website: <http://www.jahsena.ca>

**Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta**

Betty Sherwood, President  
Agi Romer Segal, Librarian and Archivist,  
1607 - 90th Avenue S.W.,  
Calgary, Alberta T2V 4V7  
Phone: 403-444-3171; Fax: 403-253-7915  
Email: [jhssa@shaw.ca](mailto:jhssa@shaw.ca)  
Website: <http://www.jhssa.org/>

**The Jewish Museum & Archives of British Columbia/  
Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia**

Gary Averbach, President  
Molly Winston, Education Coordinator  
#300-950 West 41st Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 2N7  
Phone: 604-257-5199  
Email: [info@jewishmuseum.ca](mailto:info@jewishmuseum.ca)  
Website: <http://www.jewishmuseum.ca/node/2>

**Ontario Jewish Archives**

Brooky Robins, Chair  
Ellen Scheinberg, Director  
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto  
4600 Bathurst Street Toronto, ON M2R 3V2  
Phone: 416- 635-2883 (ext. 5170); Fax: 416-849-1006  
Email: [escheinberg@ujafed.org](mailto:escheinberg@ujafed.org)  
Website: [www.ontariojewisharchives.org](http://www.ontariojewisharchives.org)

**Ottawa Jewish Archives**

Gerald Stone, (out-going Chair)  
Laurie Dougherty, Archivist  
21 Nadolny Sachs Private  
Ottawa, ON K2A1R9  
Phone: 613-798-4696 ext.260; Fax: 613-798-4695  
Email: [archives@jewishottawa.com](mailto:archives@jewishottawa.com)  
Website: <http://jewishottawa.com/page.aspx?id=193507>

**Ottawa Jewish Historical Society**

John Holzman, President  
Elaine Brodsky, Secretary  
Heartwood House  
153 Chapel Street  
Ottawa, ON K1N 1H5  
Phone: 613-244-8291; Fax: 613-241-4170  
Email: [info@ojhs.ca](mailto:info@ojhs.ca)  
Website: [www.ojhs.ca](http://www.ojhs.ca)

**Saint John Jewish Historical Museum**

Gary Davis, President  
Katherine Biggs-Kraft, Curator  
91 Leinster Street, Saint John, NB E2L 1J2  
Phone: 506-633-1833; Fax: 506-642-9926  
Email: [sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca)  
Website: <http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/sjjhm/>

**University of Toronto Centre for Jewish Studies \***

Prof. Hindy Najman, Director  
University of Toronto  
Sidney Smith Hall, Room 5016  
100 St. George Street  
Toronto, ON M5S 3G3  
Phone: 416- 978-1624  
Email: [cjs\\_director@utoronto.ca](mailto:cjs_director@utoronto.ca)  
Website: <http://cjs.utoronto.ca>

**Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program \***

Prof. Seymour Mayne, Program Coordinator  
University of Ottawa  
70 Laurier Ave East, Room 354  
Ottawa, ON K1N6N5  
Phone: 613-562-5800, ext. 1148; Fax: 613-562-5990  
Email: [rmargoli@uOttawa.ca](mailto:rmargoli@uOttawa.ca)  
Website: [www.vered.uOttawa.ca](http://www.vered.uOttawa.ca)