**ACJS** Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Association des études juives canadiennes

SPRING 2011 / 5771

AEJC



# Marcia Koven wins Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award

n behalf of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS) I am very pleased to announce that Marcia Koven of Saint John, New Brunswick, is the 2011 recipient of the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award.

Koven founded the St. John Jewish Historical Museum, a distinguished institution of great importance

to the perpetuation of the study of Canadian Jewish history. Koven was born in 1926 and throughout her life has been devoted to the Canadian Jewish community, most notably its preservation, and teaching its history through the museum.

Koven's museum, opened in 1986, remains the only Jewish museum in Atlantic Canada. It is

through the tireless work of volunteers such as Ms. Koven that community histories are located and preserved for future study.

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum has received awards from the American Association for State and Local History (1987), the Church and Synagogue Library Association (1996), and the Province of New Brunswick (2000).

Over the years, Koven served as president of the synagogue sisterhood, president of the Saint John chapter and member of the National Executive of Hadassah-WIZO, a New Brunswick representative on the regional Atlantic Jewish Council, head of the women's Hevra Kadisha in Saint John, curator of the museum and in a variety of capacities with other organizations, such as the local Shomar Seniors Club and the Holocaust Committee of the Atlantic Jewish

Council. Her efforts on behalf of the community have been recognized in a number of awards: most particularly, the Caring Canadian Award from the Lieutenant

Governor of New Brunswick (1999), but also several awards from Hadassah-WIZO and Canadian Young Judaea. (See http://jwa.org/encyclopedia/ article/koven-marcia for more.)

The ACJS proudly recognizes the exceptional role Marcia Koven has played in preserving

and disseminating Canadian Jewish history. As of 2011, the best student paper of our conference will be granted

the Marcia Koven Award, which is accompanied by a cash prize.

For more on the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award, please see: www.acjsaejc.ca/award.html.

Dr. Randal F. Schnoor President, ACJS

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VOLUME 25:1

# 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 <u>sjlandauchark@gmail.com</u>.

The ACJS website: www.acjs-aejc.ca.

# President

Randal Schnoor Vice-President Susan Landau-Chark Treasurer Robin Bergart Secretary Janice Rosen Past President Norm Ravvin

Bulletin Editor Susan Landau-Chark

Bulletin Production Shirley Muhlstock Brodt

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# Proposed Slate of ACJS Board Members for 2011-2012

# Officers

President: Randal Schnoor Treasurer: Robin Bergart Past President: Norm Ravvin Vice-President: Barry Stiefel Secretary: Janice Rosen

# **Executive Committees**

Journal Editor: Rebecca Margolis Bulletin Editor: Susan Landau-Chark Chair, Communities and Archives: Debby Schoctor Chair, Membership: Steven Lapidus Chair, Programs (and Conference): Rebecca Margolis Book review Editor: Ira Robinson Chair, Academic Committee: TBD Chair, Finance: TBD Chair, Nominations: Barry Stiefel Honorary Officer: TBD

# Board Members for 2011-2014

Pierre Anctil Herman Tesler-Mabe

# Board Members for 2010-2013

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# Board Members for 2010-2012

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# **BULLETIN DELIVERY**

This year you are being asked if you would like to receive the ACJS Bulletin by email only. Bulletins received by email will be in colour whereas, due to costs, the mailed hard copies will continue to be in black and white.

To notify us of your preference, kindly send a brief note to <u>sbrodt@cjccc.ca</u>.

ISSN 14895954

# President's Message



Dear members and friends of the ACJS,

DR. RANDAL F. SCHNOOR

s Holocaust historian Dr. Paula Draper explains, one of the more bizarre stories of Jewish survival during the Holocaust occurred in prisoner-of-war camps in Canada between 1940 and 1944. The odyssey of the interned refugees took them from the brink of death in Europe, to refuge in England, to incarceration and eventual release in Canada. It is a Holocaust story with a happy ending.

Between August 1940 and June 1941, some 600 male refugees, most from Austria and Germany, were interned in an out-of-the-way Depression unemployment relief camp named Camp B, some 22 miles east of Fredericton, New Brunswick. They posed an enigma to both administrators and the Canadian Jewish community. The refugees themselves were stuck behind barbed wire in a land that was fighting their mortal enemy and yet seemed blinded by a bizarre combination of bureaucracy and antisemitism to the reality of their plight. And so, they struggled to be free while making the best of it.

Those of you who are able to join us at our upcoming conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick, May 29-31, 2011, will have an opportunity to learn more about this little-known episode in Canadian Jewish history. The town of Minto, New Brunswick, houses an internment camp museum. ACJS delegates are invited for a private tour of this museum on the morning of Sunday, May 29. In addition, the conference keynote session will feature Dr. Paul Draper as well as Toni-Lynn Frederick (Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre), who will present lectures and audio-visual material which shed more light on the life of the Jewish refugees in this camp.

Also at the conference we are delighted to honour Marcia Koven, winner of the 2011 Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award. The ACJS proudly recognizes the exceptional role Marcia Koven has played in preserving and disseminating Canadian Jewish history through the founding of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum (the museum is now celebrating its 25th anniversary). I encourage all delegates coming to Fredericton to include a stop in Saint John (an approximately one-hour drive) to visit the museum.

The full program of the conference is contained in this bulletin and available on our website: <u>http://</u><u>www.acjs-aejc.ca/conference.html</u>. Thank you to Rebecca Margolis for her efforts in putting this conference together.

I look forward to seeing you in Fredericton.

Dr. Randal F. Schnoor President Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

# From our regions

# The West...



# JEWISH MUSEUM & ARCHIVES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FINDS NEW HOME AT THE PERETZ CENTRE FOR SECULAR JEWISH CULTURE

"A people's memory is history. A people without a history can grow neither wiser nor better."

- Isaac Leyb Peretz (1852-1915)

The above quote, inscribed on a large sign at the entrance to the Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture, "perfectly expresses the sentiments of the Jewish Museum & Archives of British Columbia" as mentioned by Shirley Barnett, board member of the Jewish Historical Society of B.C., while scouting for a new location last fall.

The Jewish Museum & Archives of British Columbia (JMABC), administered by the Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia, has moved into the newly renovated Berson Lounge, located on the second floor of the Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture. The Jewish Museum & Archives of British Columbia was previously located on the third floor of the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver from March 2007 to February 2011. The Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture is located at 6184 Ash Street, Vancouver, BC V5Z 3G9.

The JMABC joins a variety of other organizations located at the Peretz Centre, including Ahavat Olam Synagogue, Bravo Dance, Independent Jewish Voices, Jewish Food Bank storage and distribution, Kol Halev Performance Ensemble, MOST/Bridge Russian Seniors, *Outlook* magazine and the Vancouver Jewish Film Festival.

An open house took place on Sunday, March 27, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Visitors toured the new facility, met with JMABC staff, and learned about the work of the Jewish Museum & Archives of British Columbia.

For more information, contact the Jewish Museum & Archives of British Columbia at <u>info@jewishmuseum.ca</u> or call (604) 257-5199.

The Jewish Museum & Archives of British Columbia, as governed by the Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia, is the preeminent and authoritative body for the collection and sharing of community memory of Jewish life in British Columbia.

Since 1970, the Society's work has included operating the Jewish Museum & Archives of British Columbia, 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 traveling exhibits and educational programs.

Media Contact:

Molly Winston, Education Coordinator Jewish Museum & Archives of British Columbia (604) 257-5199 <u>mwinston@jewishmuseum.ca</u>

# JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta has three public programs scheduled for 2011. In January, JHSSA director and local historian Harry Sanders presented stories and images from his forthcoming book, *Calgary: A New Illustrated History*. On March 27, 2011, about sixty members of the general public were entertained by JHSSA director and local songwriter and performer Paul Finkleman at our program "Sing'in Calgary's History." Paul performed original songs about famous Calgary events and personalities from both the general and the Jewish communities. Harry Sanders will return on May 30 to inform Calgarians about Jewish involvement in agriculture with his presentation "Jewish Life in Rumsey and Trochu: The Story of the Srolovitz Family." Plans are now underway to honour our Jewish war veterans at our Annual General Meeting in October.

# Ontario ...

# MAZEL TOV AND YASHER KOACH TO REBECCA MARGOLIS

**Rebecca Margolis**, associate professor in the University of Ottawa's Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program, has been awarded the Young Researcher of the Year Award by the Faculty of Arts.

**ALSO IN OTTAWA**, the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society hosts a speakers series as part of its continuing promotion of Ottawa's Jewish history.

Our speaker on June 14, 2011, will be Rabbi Reuven Bulka, who will give us his reflections on almost half a century in Ottawa. ■

# CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES: MEET THE CANADIAN JEWISH HERITAGE NETWORK

By Janice Rosen (CJCCCNA) and Shannon Hodge (JPL-A)

The Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives (CJCCCNA) and the Jewish Public Library Archives (JPL-A) are proud to announce our "virtual mind-meld" through the launch of a new website, the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network, at <u>www.cjhn.ca</u>. The CJHN explores and showcases the archival resources of our two repositories and in doing so brings to light the intricate ways in which our holdings are related or complementary.

This ambitious joint venture was made possible through a grant to CJCCC from the **Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation**.

As two of the major organizations involved in Canadian Jewish historical preservation, both located in Montreal, we preserve the memory of past Quebec and Montreal poets and politicians, artists and activists, builders and teachers, families and philanthropists. Our users can now visit us from the comfort of their own desks, searching our online catalogue for archival collections dating from the 18th century onwards. Using the site's selection cart, one can then select, email, print or order archival material directly from the web.

Almost 25,000 data base records from these archival collections are currently online, as well as approximately 1,500 digitized historic photographs and archival documents. Many complete multi-page documents are available in PDF format.

The digitized documents currently online include

minutes, annual reports, anniversary publications, sermons, and ephemeral material.

Users of the site can also delve into the CJHN's genealogical research data base, which already contains close to 50,000 genealogical records and over 5,000 associated images. This section of the CJHN is sponsored by **Penny Rubinoff** and the **Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal**.

At the time of writing, the genealogy component of the website consists of various family history resources from CJCCCNA: Jewish Immigrant Aid Services client name lists from 1922-1952, Jewish Colonization Association individual farm settler reports from Western Canada and Quebec from 1906 to 1951, translated Yiddish obituaries from the *Keneder Adler* (1908-1931), and the Hebrew Sick Benefit Association of Montreal's membership book listings from 1897 to 1905. Data from other sources will be added soon, including name-related records from the JPL Archives collection.

The family history database also houses all of CJCCC's information about Jewish servicemen casualties in the Canadian Armed Forces during World Wars I and II.

With some entries in the genealogy database listing information such as professions and street addresses from the turn of the 20th century, countries of origin and causes of death, much of this information will be of interest to historians and sociologists as well.

Visit us soon, at <u>www.cjhn.ca</u>!



cjhn.ca



ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONGRESS FOR HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK MAY 29 – 31, 2011

Sunday, May 29 Location: Head Hall 102

# 7:00 РМ: Evening program

Presentation of the Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award to Marcia Koven, founder of the St. John Jewish Historical Museum

Keynote speakers:

Paula Draper (Independent researcher) "Jewish 'Enemy Aliens'? A History of Jewish Refugees Interned in New Brunswick: 1940-1941"

Toni-Lynn Frederick (University of Reading, Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre), "It Could Have Been Worse" – The Internment of Jewish Refugees in Canada During the Second World War

## MONDAY, MAY 30

LOCATION: HEAD HALL 102

# 9:00 – 10:30 AM: Annual General Meeting, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

10:30 - 11:00 AM: Coffee break

# 11:00 – 12:15 PM: ACJS session 1 | Panel: Case Studies in Preserving Canada's Jewish Heritage

Barry Stiefel (College of Charleston, SC) Sandra Weizman (The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project, Calgary) Chair: Frank Bialystok (University of Toronto)

# 12:15 – 1:45 РМ: Lunch break

# 1:45 – 3:15 PM: ACJS session 2 | New Directions in Canadian Jewish Studies

Pierre Anctil (University of Ottawa), "Writing and Publishing Canadian Jewish History in French"

Frank Bialystok (University of Toronto), "Reconsidering the Writing of the History of the Jews in Canada"

Norm Ravvin (Concordia University), "The War and Before: Mainstream Literary Life and the Jews in Canada during the Thirties and Forties"

Chair: Randal Schnoor (York University)

Tuesday, may 31 Location: Head Hall 102

9:00 – 10:30 AM: Open Board Meeting, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

10:30 - 11:00 AM: Coffee break

# 11:00 $_{\text{AM}}$ – 12:00 $_{\text{PM}}$ : ACJS session 3 | Canada After the Holocaust

Adara Goldberg (Clark University), "Left in the West: Orphaned Holocaust Survivors in Western Canada"

Garry Smolyansky (York University), "Class, Identity and Ethnicity in Soviet Jewish Communities in Post-WW II Canada"

Hernan Tesler-Mabe (Canadian Development Consultants International), "A Desolate Cry in the Canadian Wilderness: German-Jewish Musicians and their Impact upon Canadian Culture"

Chair: Paula Draper (independent researcher)

# 12:00 – 1:30 РМ: Lunch break

# 1:30 – 3:00 PM: ACJS / CSJS session 4 | Evolving Jewish Community Concerns

Ira Robinson (Concordia University), "A Tale of Two Cities: The Correspondence of Rabbis Sheea Herschorn and Abraham Price, 1933-1958"

Randal Schnoor (York University), "Jewish Families and School Choice: A Multifocal Account"

Nanette Norris (CSJS | English Department, Royal Military College, St. Jean, QC), "Jason Sherman's *Reading Hebron*: Canadian-Jewish Identity and the Palestinian Question"

Chair: Daniel Maoz

**3:00 – 4:00** PM: Annual General Meeting, Canadian Society of Jewish Studies





Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies

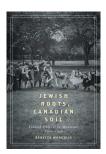
Thank you to our sponsors





# **Book Page**





Rebecca Margolis is pleased to announce the release of her new book, *Jewish Roots*, *Canadian Soil: Yiddish Culture in Montreal*, 1905-1945; *How Montreal's Yiddish community ensured its lasting cultural importance and influence*. In 1931, ninety-nine percent of Montreal's

sixty thousand Jews reported that Yiddish was their mother tongue. In the succeeding decades, Yiddish culture has continued to have

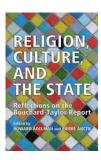
a prominent place in Montreal's social landscape. In *Jewish Roots, Canadian Soil*, Rebecca Margolis shows that the city's vibrant Yiddish culture is the legacy of a driven group of the city's Jews who devoted themselves to the revitalization of the Jewish community, creating a longlasting infrastructure and institutions that have bolstered Yiddish identity.

Looking at Montreal's Jewish community during the first half of the twentieth century, Margolis explores the lives and works of activists, writers, scholars, performers, and organizations that fuelled a still-thriving community. She also considers the foundations and development of Yiddish cultural life in Montreal in its interaction with broader issues of diasporic Jewish culture. An illuminating look at the ways in which Yiddish culture was maintained in North America, *Jewish Roots, Canadian Soil* is the story of how a minority culture was transplanted and transformed.

### McGill-Queen's University Press

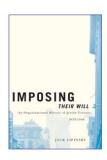
320 pages | 6 x 9 | 25 b&w photos | 1 map Cloth March 2011 | ISBN (0773538127) 9780773538122 McGill-Queen's Studies in Ethnic History series http://mqup.mcgill.ca/book.php?bookid=2622

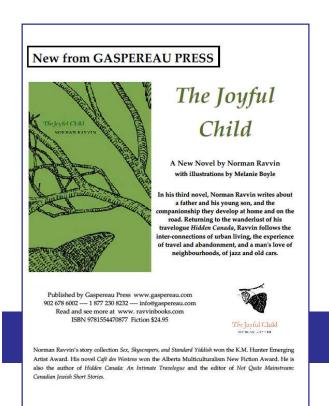
*Religion, Culture, and the State* addresses reasonable accommodation from legal, political and anthropological perspectives. Using the 2008 Bouchard-Taylor Report as their point of departure, Pierre Anctil and Howard Adelman examine the English- and French-Canadian experiences of multiculturalism and diversity through socio-historical assessment and comparative analyses focusing on France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Timely and engaging, *Religion, Culture, and the State* is a valuable addition to the literature on religious pluralism in Canadian society. Dit Pierre Anctil : Il me fait plaisir de porter à votre attention cet ouvrage au sujet de la Commission Bouchard-Taylor, préparé en collaboration avec Howard Adelman de l'Université York. Vous y trouverez réunis des communications orales qui avaient été présentées en juin 2008 au Centre Halbert de l'Université hébraïque de Jérusalem. L'ouvrage sera disponible à la fin du mois d'avril. Voir le feuillet publicitaire préparé par les Presses de l'Université de Toronto.



Jack Lipinsky, author, curriculum writer and consultant, and spiritual coordinator at Anshei Staszow-Slipi Congregation, is very pleased to announce that his book *Imposing Their* 

Will: An Institutional History of Toronto Jews, 1933-48 will be published June 1 by McGill-Queen's University Press. This is the product of 25 years of research in the field. It approaches its topic through history, organizational behaviour, and sociology and traces the forces and individuals that professionalized Toronto Jewish communal life. A lengthy conclusion tracks the influences of this period into the 1960s and '70s. For further information, <u>http://</u> mqup.mcgill.ca/book.php?bookid=2617. ■

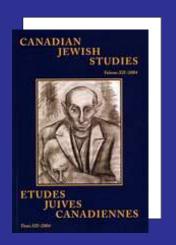




# Looking for reviewers for *Canadian Jewish Studies*

If you are interested in reviewing a book for *Canadian Jewish Studies* or if you know of a book that should be reviewed by the journal, please contact the book review editor:

Ira Robinson Department of Religion Concordia University 1455 ee Maisonneuve Blvd. West Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8 Tel.: 514-848-2424 ext. 2074 Fax: 514-848-4541 Email: ira.robinson@sympatico.ca





The University of Ottawa's Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program is offering the following courses in Jewish Canadian Studies and Yiddish Studies in the 2011-2012 academic year:

### Fall 2011

\* Introduction to Jewish Canadian Studies (CDN 1300) Prof. Rebecca Margolis, Tuesdays 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

\* Jewish Canadian Writers (CDN-ENG 3383) Prof. Seymour Mayne, Mondays 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

#### Winter 2012

\* Selected Topics in Jewish Canadian Studies: Canadian Responses to the Holocaust (CDN 3102-A) Prof. Rebecca Margolis, Mondays 11:30 a.m. to 13:00 p.m. and Thursdays 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

\* Selected Topics in Jewish Canadian Studies: Contemporary Canadian Jewish Life (CDN 3102-B) Prof. Randal Schnoor, Thursdays 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

\* Introduction to Yiddish Literature and Film (YDD 2104) Prof. Rebecca Margolis, Wednesdays 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

A. M. Klein and His Circle: Special-topic seminar (ENG 4394B) Prof. Seymour Mayne, Tuesdays 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

These courses are open to regular students as well as auditors.

The Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program offers a minor in Jewish Canadian Studies as well as a number of student scholarships.

Information: Prof. Rebecca Margolis <u>margoli@uottawa.ca;</u> Prof. Seymour Mayne <u>mayne@uottawa.ca</u> <u>www.vered.uottawa.ca</u>

# ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, MAY 31, 2010, 9:00 A.M.-10:55 A.M. (Held during the ACJS Annual Conference Concordia University, Room MB S1-430)

### Chair: Randal Schnoor, President

Present: Robin Bergart, Frank Bialystok, Moishe Dolman, Benjamin Fisher, Bill Gleberzon, Faith Jones, David Koffman, Susan Landau-Chark, Daniel Maoz, Rebecca Margolis, Richard Menkis, Norm Ravvin, Ira Robinson, Janice Rosen, Stephanie Schwartz, Garry Smolyansky, Barry Stiefel, Gerald Tulchinsky.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Susan Landau-Chark, seconded by David Koffman, the minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting were approved.

#### **President's Report**

Randal Schnoor reported that attendance at the May 30 sessions was good and that he considered the sessions to have gone well. He thanked Rebecca Margolis and the Jewish Public Library for the day's arrangements and noted his appreciation to Ira Robinson for the successful banquet.

Randal reviewed the *Canadian Jewish News'* coverage in advance of the ACJS conference, noting that CJN reporter Janice Arnold was at the banquet, and further remarked on the positive relationship that has now been established with the CJN, as evidenced through its yearly article on the ACJS conference.

Membership tracking has been improved through the transfer of the ACJS data base to the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives (CJCCCNA) data base system.

Three calendar years of journals had been published (2005-2006 and 2007), and a third, for 2008, is now in production. A double volume containing essays about Yiddish culture in Canada is now being prepared for 2009-2010.

Randal reported an improvement in the appearance and content of the ACJS bulletin, with Susan Landau-Chark as editor and Shirley Muhlstock Brodt in charge of production.

Acting on a suggestion by Stephanie Schwartz, a web page for students is now available.

The strategic planning committee that was formed at last year's conference has been active over the year. Its study group, led by David Koffman and Stephanie Schwartz, has thus far met three times to discuss how Jews interact with multiculturalism. Examples of other discussion issues were put forward.

As Bernie Katz has stepped down as ACJS treasurer; Randal organized a meeting honouring him in Toronto on May 25 at the Pickle Barrel. On this evening Bernie was presented with a plaque for his service as Treasurer. The new treasurer for 2010 is Robin Bergart. An assistant for her is being sought. Susan Landau-Chark will continue as Vice-President and Janice Rosen as Secretary.

On a motion by Norm Ravvin, seconded by Ira Robinson, the President's Report was approved.

#### Membership Report (Randal)

(This item was discussed during the President's Report) As to membership, 85 members had paid for 2010 as of last count. It was suggested that a membership chair be appointed and that calls be made to follow up with non-paying members. The ACJS membership form needs to be made clearer (e.g. there is confusion by members when marking whether they were individuals or part of affiliated societies). The question of online payment was raised; it was decided that ACJS would acquire a PayPal account, which would necessitate an increase in membership fees to cover the additional three-percent PayPal charge. As the last membership fee raise occurred in 2002, an increase in membership rates from \$50 to \$60 and from \$25 to \$30 was discussed, and it was decided to implement these changes with 2011 membership renewals. Student membership will remain at \$25. An online account would also allow for donations to be made. It was noted that membership fees are only tax-deductible memberships by individuals, as professional memberships do not require the issuing of tax receipts.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Robin Bergart, filling in for Bernie Katz, provided an overview of the past year's expenditures. There were greater expenses incurred, due primarily to the greater number of publications. She noted that income from membership dues was split between calendar years because of the date when renewal notices were sent. The records show that only 85 members renewed in 2010. She recognized the support of Concordia University and its Canadian Jewish Studies Department. Conference expenses were difficult to compare because the Vancouver conference had received numerous grants, while Ottawa's conference brought in less but also cost less. Furthermore, GIC interest had increased, as had website costs. The production of a joint issue of the journal was more expensive than the usual issues; the deficit was covered by the previous year's surplus.

It was projected that the following year would produce a small deficit. Discussion ensued on fundraising possibilities. On a motion by Faith Jones, seconded by Frank Bialystok, the financial report was approved. It was proposed that the auditor for the following year would again be Gerry Silver (Daniel motioned, Janice seconded: approved), who would be given honorary member status (Norm motioned, Frank seconded: approved).

#### **Bulletin Report**

Susan Landau-Chark reported on the most recent bulletin, which was positively received. It was determined that a colour version would be too costly to print in bulk and that a possible solution was to send the bulletin by email twice a year and print a black-and-white copy once per year. Material that had been omitted from the fall 2009 bulletin was incorporated into the current bulletin. Shirley Muhlstock Brodt, a CJCCCNA employee who had formatted the bulletin, has agreed to format autumn's bulletin as well.

### **Conference Report**

Rebecca Margolis reported that thus far, the conference was running smoothly, presenters had paid up, and there were not as yet any cancellations. Several comments had been received from members of the public who had participated in the Sunday sessions. Among these were the venue (the campus setting was considered preferable) and the duration of the community portion of the conference (one evening or afternoon instead of a full day of sessions). Rebecca stated that she was willing to chair next year's conference. Discussion ensued regarding the length of the publicparticipation portion, the possibility of simultaneous programs and the holding of the community day at a campus Hillel House. It was agreed that reference letters would no longer be required from supervisors for graduate student presenters. On a motion by Robin Bergart, seconded by Stephanie Schwartz, the conference report was approved. Still to be discussed was the planning for the 2011 conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

### **Journal Report**

Rebecca Margolis reported that the 2008 journal issue would

be going to print shortly and would be mailed over the summer. The Yiddish issue was taking longer to prepare. The proposed theme of the next journal was a comparison between Jews in Canada and other countries. Discussion followed on the role of the editorial board, the vetting of papers, and the receipt of the journal by members. Ira Robinson stated that in cases where the year of membership paid was in question, the hard copies of the membership forms could be reviewed. On a motion by Daniel Maoz, seconded by Susan Landau-Chark, the journal report was approved.

### **Strategic Planning Report**

David Koffman reported that seven new initiatives had been proposed by the committee: a speakers' bureau list that could be circulated; fundraising using the potential donors list Barbara Weiser had compiled from the data base; a syllabus bank which could be made available to others teaching Canadian Jewish studies: a series of talks on Canadian Jewish studies at a venue such as the World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS) in Israel (idea proposed by Seymour Mayne); contact with other Jewish studies associations in such places as Latin America and South Africa; the expansion of the student web page; and the formation of an academic working group about Canadian Jewish studies and Jewish studies in Canada in the hopes of generating ideas with people new to the association. It was determined that the foregoing could be used as fundraising projects. It was suggested that discussion on the matter be continued the following day. On a motion by Rebecca Margolis, seconded by Richard Menkis, the strategic planning report was approved.

# Election of New Slate of Board Members 2010-2011

Susan reported on the proposed slate of Board members as it appears in the spring 2010 bulletin.

### Officers

President: Randal Schnoor Vice-President: Susan Landau-Chark Treasurer: Robin Bergart Secretary: Janice Rosen Past President: Norm Ravvin

## **Executive Committee**

Journal Editor: Rebecca Margolis Bulletin Editor: Susan Landau-Chark Chair, Communities and Archives: Janice Rosen Chair, Membership: TBD Chair, Programs (and Conference): Rebecca Margolis Book Review Editor: Ira Robinson Chair, Academic Committee: TBD Chair, Finance: TBD

# In Memoriam

**EARLY THIS YEAR**, the ACJS was saddened to hear of the passing of **Abraham Arnold** on January 28.

Montreal-born, Abe was public relations director of Montreal's Jewish Federation/Combined Jewish Appeal and editor of the *Jewish Western Bulletin* in its Toronto office in the 1940s and later in its Vancouver office. In 1965 Abe moved to



Winnipeg to be the Canadian Jewish Congress' western region director and became founding director of the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada. In 1978, Arnold was pivotal in creating the Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties (MARL) and served as its first executive director, from 1978 to 1988. Lawyer Bryan Schwartz, noted that "[Abe] was a pioneer in promoting civil liberties in the province of Manitoba."

Abe also authored several books, including Judaism: Myth, Legend, History and Custom, From the Religious to the Secular, and Jewish Life in Canada. He was given an honorary doctorate from the University of Winnipeg in 2001 and made a member of the

Order of Canada in 2004.

Abe was a former president of the Canadian Jewish Historical Society (the precursor of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies) and the winner of the ACJS Distinguished Service Award in 2004. Abe made a tremendous contribution to Jewish studies in Canada.

Please see page 15



# 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.

# ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES OPEN BOARD MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2010, 8:30 A.M.-10:45 A.M. (Held during the ACJS Annual Conference Concordia University, Room MB S1-430)

Chair: Randal Schnoor, President

Present: Pierre Anctil, Robin Bergart, Bill Gleberzon, Ginger Hegedus, Faith Jones, David Koffman, Susan Landau-Chark, Steven Lapidus, Rebecca Margolis, Richard Menkis, Ira Robinson, Agi Romer Segal, Janice Rosen, Stephanie Schwartz, Barry Stiefel

### **Approval of 2009 Open Board Minutes**

On a motion by Susan Landau-Chark, seconded by David Koffman, the Open Board Meeting minutes of 2009 were approved.

#### **Review of President's Report**

Randal Schnoor reviewed his President's Report given at the Annual General Meeting, including such topics as the conference, membership, the student page on the ACJS website, the bulletin, and the journal. He acknowledged that the 2009-2010 volume containing essays about Yiddish culture in Canada could be issued as a double one due to its nine articles covering over two hundred pages. He recognized Bernie Katz's work as treasurer. As to membership, it was reiterated that PayPal is a viable online payment method. However it was decided that given that ACJS wants to encourage membership from students, the student rate would be maintained at \$25. (One-third of ACJS' membership is currently composed of students.) Methods to increase membership were discussed.

### **Archives Committee Report**

Janice Rosen, Director of the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives (CJCCCNA), provided a brief review of the Community and Archives Committee's activities. She noted the fact that Abe Arnold started this committee in 2001 to increase interactions and dialogue between the Jewish archives and historical associations across Canada. Since then, archivists from different parts of Canada have met and held panel sessions at ACJS conferences every few years (specifically in 2004, 2008 and 2010.) This year, six archivists are participating in a panel session of historical readings, entitled "Archives Out Loud." These archivists along with several others will be holding their own professional conference at CJCCC National Archives the day after, on June 2. A research gateway website, currently describing the holdings of the two Montreal Jewish Archives, and perhaps later those of several others, is currently under construction.

On a motion by Robin Bergart, seconded by Richard Menkis, the report was approved.

#### **Jewish Heritage Conservation**

Barry Stiefel stated that Canada's Heritage Act is paralleled by efforts in the U.S. In Canada, most Jewish heritage activities are local. Canada's Jewish heritage sites are found only in small towns, such as Beth Israel Cemetery in Quebec City, the Victoria synagogue, and several other small synagogues, none of them in Montreal or Toronto.

Rebecca Margolis stated that Parks Canada erects plaques on former sites of historical importance and that Jewish sites on St. Laurent Blvd. have been recognized. Barry felt that the choice of historic sites should be effected by consultation with community members. Janice Rosen noted that Parks Canada does act in concert with community suggestions, as a committee formed at their request through the CJCCCNA had made several suggestions of sites, which Parks Canada then researched and proposed to the National Monuments Board. Barry noted that a panel on this issue will be held at the ACJS conference next year, with the participation of Ellen Scheinberg of Toronto's Ontario Jewish Archives. David Koffman noted that a Canadian Jewish museum is under development in Toronto, with approximately one-third of its \$10 million budget already raised.

Discussion followed on various aspects of the heritage issue and the Jewish museum initiative.

### **Strategic Planning**

David Koffman alluded to points raised in yesterday's Annual General Meeting and raised additional points: ACJS might consider welcoming proposals for Jewish exhibits at the local level in Jewish museums or other display spaces, putting a "public face" on research; our possible involvement with the study currently being done on Jewish studies across Canada; and the compilation of a list of Jewish filmmakers and cultural resources, possibly in conjunction with a conference. There was discussion concerning the addition to ACJS of an ad hoc committee on museums and heritage and the possible hiring of a person on a part-time basis to work on such projects, in particular someone in the educational field to promote Canadian Jewish studies at the high school level. Richard offered to be in charge of a panel on heritage sites and related initiatives.

The initiatives proposed by the ad hoc committee were further discussed. A motion was put forward to create a committee to liaise with organizations managing or looking into creating Jewish museums and heritage sites and to examine at the next AGM, the question of making this ad hoc committee into a permanent one (moved by Richard Menkis, seconded by David Koffman, and passed). It was decided that the ad hoc committee co-chairs would be Richard Menkis and Barry Stiefel.

It was determined that \$500 would be required to add a speakers' bureau list to the website. ACJS could get increased visibility by having its logo on other conference programs as co-sponsor because of its assistance at various levels. It was determined that ACJS members should have priority on the speakers' bureau list, with non-members being invited to join the list while being encouraged to become members. David Koffman agreed to put Stephanie in touch with Evelyn Taub at the Toronto Koffler Centre regarding her arts conference idea.

## **Board Reform**

There was discussion about the relative inactivity of some Board members, given that the Board currently meets only once a year at the conference. Ira Robinson suggested meeting by conference call on a more frequent basis and that email could be used to keep Board members apprised of developments.

#### E-bulletin

Susan Landau-Chark reported that most organizations currently have e-bulletins and suggested that ACJS do likewise in addition to printing bulletin hard copies. It was determined that the spring bulletin would soon be posted to the website and that the membership form would then be changed for members to indicate their preference for an emailed or hard-copy version.

### EBSCO

Faith Jones reported that ACJS had been approached by EBSCO to link to our website. (EBSCO is a provider of electronic and print subscriptions, resource management tools, full text and secondary data bases and related services for libraries, research organizations and corporations.) Through such a link, the ACJS journal would be available through indexing and links to the PDFs. Although members were generally in favour of this linking, Randal raised the copyright issue and stated that he should be contacted before a reply is sent to EBSCO.

## Website

Robin Bergart raised some criticisms about the current website, noting that French is visibly absent and that the "About Us" and link names at least should be translated. Janice Rosen will get a quote from a reasonably priced translator she knows who is used to doing this type of work. In addition, the links on the Journals page were deemed to be confusing, and the bulletin page needs to be kept current. Other suggestions included posting the ACJS bylaws on the website, and the possibility of having an online-only journal.

### **Good and Welfare**

Randal Schnoor summed up the meeting and noted that ACJS is still in need of a membership chair and help with finances.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, on a motion by Randal Schnoor, seconded by David Koffman, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. ■

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).



### Continued from page 10

Chair, Nominations: Susan Landau-Chark Honorary Officer: TBD

## Board Members for 2010-2013

Michele Byers (NS) Judith Cohen (ON) Gary Davis (NB) Bernard Katz (ON) Goldie Morgentaler (AB) Messod Salama (NL) Barbara Schober (BC) Alisa Siegal (ON) Barry Stiefel (SC)

### Board Members for 2010-2012

Stanley Asher (QC) David Koffman (New York) Seymour Mayne (ON) Richard Menkis (BC) Stuart Schoenfeld (ON) Stephanie Schwartz (ON) William Shaffir (ON) Henry Srebnick (PEI) Ronnie Tessler (BC) Morton Weinfeld (QC)

## Board Members for 2010-2011

Pierre Anctil (ON) Abraham Arnold (MB) Dana Herman (OH) Eve Lerner (QC) Edward Mickelson (AB) Lara Rabinovitch (New York)

All positions except those of Membership and Finance Chairs have been filled [editor's note: per bulletin, Academic Committee Chair is also not filled]. Four Board members now reside outside Canada. Susan stated that according to the bylaws those elected must be balanced by region, gender, and type of member. Nominations can be submitted up to 90 days before the ACJS conference. She encouraged interested parties to consult the bylaws for further details. On a motion by Rebecca Margolis, seconded by Ira Robinson, the report was approved.

### **Good and Welfare**

Regrets were received from Morton Weinfeld, who was unable to attend this meeting due to his son's marriage in Boston. Richard Menkis thanked Randal Schnoor for his work as president. There being no further business, on a motion by Faith Jones, seconded by Gerald Tulchinsky, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. ■



# Announcing Jewish Fiction.net A new online literary journal founded by Dr. Nora Gold

# www.jewishfiction.net

Welcome to *Jewish Fiction.net*, a journal committed to showcasing the finest contemporary Jewish writing (either written in or translated into English) and creating an online community for writers and readers of Jewish fiction from around the world. Our journal is unique among English-language Jewish journals because only **Jewish Fiction.net** is devoted exclusively to the publishing of Jewish fiction, and we are proud to be able to fill this niche within the international Jewish literary community. Our founder and editor, Dr. Nora Gold, is an award-winning author of Jewish fiction, living in Toronto.

Our third issue contains original work by:

Natan Zach Orly Castel-Bloom Peter Orner Kim Chernin Nurit Zarchi and more...

Jewish Fiction .net is currently inviting submissions for its fourth issue, coming out in May/June 2011. For more details, please visit our website or write <u>submissions@jewish fiction.net</u>. Continued from page 11

# **ON ABE ARNOLD**

**AROUND 1990**, Irving Abella invited me to a gathering of some members of the Toronto Jewish Historical Society. It turned out to be my introduction to Abe Arnold, Miriam Waddington and Ben Kayfetz. It was also my entry into the field of Canadian Jewish studies. As I began my research on Canadian Jewry and the legacy of the Holocaust, Abe and Ben were my foremost sources of information, veritable walking encyclopaedias of Canadian Jewry — the history, society, organizations, culture. One year Abe met me at a downscale Chinese restaurant on rue de la Gauchetière in Montreal during one of our conferences. He regaled me with stories from his early days in journalism and gave detailed answers, often straying from the questions asked. I missed the afternoon sessions.

Abe was a representative of the generation of Jews who grew up in the immigrant communities and emerged in the forefront of Canadian Jews. That generation which made the transition from immigrants to Canadians faced the obstacle of both genteel and virulent antisemitism. They fought not only for Jewish rights but also for those of other marginalized ethno-cultural groups. Abe's dedication to human rights was central in his work, and to his being, lifelong, His career as a journalist, lecturer, organization man and scholar were but four branches of his prodigious output. His leadership in creating historical societies in the West and in our national association is unique and virtually unmatched in the annals of our people.

Abe was not an easy man. He had strong principles and points of view that often went against the grain, that riled many of us. But we always recognized that these were academic disagreements rather than personal ones. Abe's brashness, humour, posture, lumpy clothes, and unique physiognomy were endearing, especially after the first encounter.

Abe was also of the generation who lived history as well as one who studied it. He was our best "amateur historian" who didn't yield to our "professional historians" just because he didn't have the title of professor. He wrote and lectured about quotidian events, organized artistic and historical exhibitions and helped create archives. Abe got his hands dirty. Those of us who are paid to teach and pontificate have much to learn from Abe, Ben Kayfetz, Miriam Waddington and the other "amateurs" who paved the road. We already miss Abe.

May his memory be for a blessing.

Frank Bialystok

IT MUST BE MORE than fifteen years ago, probably twenty, when one day Abe showed up in Ottawa and suddenly appeared in my office. I don't recall if I got sufficient warning. At that time my office could be found in an old house on Waller Street, one that had served as a residence for the Oblate fathers who had founded the University of Ottawa in the 1840s. Next to my office there was a bathroom with an ancient tub that had been left unused for years.

Abe looked around but quickly took the other seat in these cramped quarters (that once even boasted a daytime visit from a low-flying rather adventurous bat) and immediately launched into his new campaign. Very soon he had me nodding and ready to sign on for the rebirth of a national organization dedicated to Jewish Canadian studies.

His was an insistent monologue, and there was no way I could have demurred. I pledged immediately, and that satisfied him. Secretly, I must confess, I was skeptical that we could keep such an association alive for very long — but we have, and the ACJS is a tribute to his persistent idealism and passionate resolve. We are part of his legacy.

May we always remember him with fond and appreciative thoughts.

Seymour Mayne, University of Ottawa



**CHAVA ROSENFARB**, a Yiddish prose writer and poet who made her mark as a postwar Yiddish writer in Canada, died January 30, 2011. Rosenfarb was born in Lodz, Poland, February 9, 1923.

Rosenfarb, a Holocaust survivor,

immigrated to Montreal in 1950 and quickly became involved in the city's Yiddish literary community. Goldie Morgentaler, her daughter, now a professor of English literature at the University of Lethbridge, recalls her mother giving talks at the Jewish Public Library and hosting Yiddish writers who were visiting the city.

Her landmark Holocaust trilogy - published in 1972 and

translated between 2004 and 2006 as *The Tree of Life: A Trilogy of Life in the Lodz Ghetto* — remains one of the seminal works of fiction about the Holocaust in any language.

Even though Rosenfarb established her reputation in the Yiddish literary world, winning the prestigious Manger Prize in 1979, she had more difficulty gaining recognition for her work in English. Goldie Morgentaler noted that "she had a very hard time getting people interested because her books were in Yiddish and they were very long."

Today, with Yiddish now being taught at university level, Rosenfarb's literary legacy will continue. At the 2010 ACJS conference in Montreal, a session was devoted to the impact of Rosenfarb's writings within the Canadian Jewish literary milieu. [Gleaned from *The Jewish Daily Forward*] ■



#### 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 Website: 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: <u>cis@alcor.concordia.ca</u> Website: <u>http://web2.concordia.ca/jchair/</u>

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

Prof. Sara R. Horowitz, Director 763 York Research Tower York University 4700 Keele Street Toronto, ON M3J 1P3 Phone: 416-736-5823; Fax: 416-736-5344 Email: <u>srh(@)yorku.ca</u> Website: <u>www.vorku.ca/cjs/contact.html</u>

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

Gary Averbach, President Molly Winston, Education Coordinator c/o Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture 6184 Ash Street Vancouver, BC V5Z 3G9 Phone: 604-257-5199 Email: <u>info@jewishmuseum.ca</u> Website: <u>http://www.jewishmuseum.ca/node/2</u>

### Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton

& Northern Alberta Jini Vogel, President Debby Shoctor, Archivist 7200 - 156 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5R 1X3 Phone: 780-489-2809; Fax: 780-481-1854 Email: 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: <u>ihssa@shaw.ca</u> Website: <u>http://www.jhssa.org/</u>

### **Ontario Jewish Archives**

Brooky Robins, Chair UJA Federation of Greater Toronto 4600 Bathurst Street Toronto, ON M2R 3V2 Phone: 416- 635-2883 (ext. 5170); Fax: 416-849-1006 Email: <u>oja1@ujafed.org</u> Website: <u>www.ontariojewisharchives.org</u>

#### **Ottawa Jewish Archives**

Laurie Dougherty, Archivist 21 Nadolny Sachs Private Ottawa, ON K2A1R9 Phone: 613-798-4696 ext.260; Fax: 613-798-4695 Email: <u>archives@jewishottawa.com</u> Website: http://jewishottawa.com/page.aspx?id=193507

#### **Ottawa Jewish Historical Society**

Ian Sadinsky, President Elaine Brodsky, Secretary Heartwood House 153 Chapel Street Ottawa, ON K1N 1HS Phone: 613-244-8291; Fax: 613-241-4170 Email: info@ojhs.ca Website: 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 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

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 K1N 6N5 Phone: 613-562-5800, ext. 1148; Fax: 613-562-5990 Email: <u>rmargoli@uOttawa.ca</u> Website: www.vered.uOttawa.ca