ACJS Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Association des études juives canadiennes



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ACJS BULLETIN

Hesh Troper awarded Louis Rosenberg Award







On behalf of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS), I am very pleased to announce that **PROFESSOR HAROLD TROPER** of the University of Toronto is the 2012 recipient of the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award.

With this award, the Association wishes to acknowledge the enormous contribution that Professor Troper (a past president of the ACJS) has made to the study of Canadian Jewish history.

Born in 1942, Harold (Hesh) Troper is a Canadian writer, historian and academic. During

his many years of teaching at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) of the University of Toronto he has influenced a multitude of students, greatly stimulating their interest in Canadian Jewish history.

An eloquent and engaging speaker, Troper has lectured widely and effectively to the general public on subjects related to the Jewish experience in Canada, thus increasing the scope of his influence well beyond the walls of academe.

His numerous scholarly publications are well known. He has authored The Ransomed of God: The Secret Rescue of the Jews of Syria (1999), The Rescuer: The Amazing True Story of How One Woman Helped Save the Jews of *Syria* (2007), and *The Defining Decade*: Identity, Politics, and the Canadian Jewish Community in the 1960s (2010). He coauthored with Irving Abella None Is Too Many:

by Randal Schnoor

Canada and the Jews of Europe, 1933-1948 (1983). The story of the Canadian government's refusal to allow Jewish immigration from Europe during the Holocaust, this book was selected by a panel of experts for the Literary Review of

> Canada as one of the 100 most important Canadian books ever written.

He also co-authored, with Morton Weinfeld, Old Wounds: Jews, Ukrainians and the Hunt for Nazi War Criminals in Canada (1988).

He has authored or co-authored many other books and monographs dealing more generally with issues related to immigration, intergroup relations, multiculturalism, ethnic

diversity and the like in which the Canadian Jewish experience is explored. Current research interests include Canadian social history, immigration, education of ethnic and minority groups, American history, and the history of education.

We look forward to presenting the

Rosenberg Award to Professor Troper on the evening of May 30, 2012, at our upcoming conference in Waterloo,

Ontario. 🗖

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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 <u>sjlandauchark@yahoo.ca</u>.

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

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

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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).



Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies



President's Message

Dear members and friends of the ACJS,

Some change is in the air. You may have noticed we are in the midst of redesigning our website to give it a fresh new look. Please bear with us as we work

out the kinks. Our journal is also undergoing some change. I would like to thank Rebecca Margolis for her excellent work as editor of the journal.

We are delighted to now turn the editorship over to two young and ambitious newly minted PhDs, David Koffman (PhD from NYU) and Stephanie Schwartz (PhD from University of Ottawa). I can see these two new editors are interested in broadening the appeal of our

journal and moving it into new directions. I welcome this.

Some of you may have had the chance to watch and participate in a webinar I put together on April 25, 2012, entitled "The Distinctiveness of Canadian Jewish Life." The purpose of this webinar was to highlight the special-edition volume of the journal Contemporary Jewry (October 2011) which I guestedited (http://www.springerlink.com/content/0147-1694/31/3/). This American-based social-science journal commissioned me to develop a special volume on the Jews of Canada. Mort Weinfeld had also guest-edited such a volume on Canadian Jews 30 years ago, in 1982 (let's hope it will be less than thirty years before we see another one!). Along with myself, Michele Byers of Saint Mary's University in Halifax presented some of the highlights from the journal volume. Though I do not have the numbers, it appears there was a sizeable amount of people logged in to the webinar.

While I tried to gear my remarks to an American audience, the vast majority of questions came from



DR. RANDAL F. SCHNOOR

Canadian viewers. I must admit I am still not convinced that American scholars pay too much attention to Canadian Jewish life. Nonetheless there have been a number of anthologies or special volumes put together recently on the Jews of Canada

> (some by American presses). These include a special issue of *Studies in Religion* entitled "Jews and Judaism in Twentieth-Century Montreal" (September, 2011) edited by Ira Robinson. Robinson is also editing another work on the Jews of Canada to be released later this year in the "Jews in Time and Space" series published by Academic Studies Press out of Boston. In addition, the *American Jewish Year Book* will be publishing a lengthy piece on the

topic later this year. Canadian Jews are hot!

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming conference in Waterloo, Ontario. Squeezing between Shavuot and Shabbat, the conference will be midweek this year (Wednesday-Thursday, May 30-31). Our evening session will include a book launch of *Nazi Germany, Canadian Responses* (McGill-Queens University Press) as well as a keynote address from Professor James Walker (University of Waterloo) entitled "The Jewish Contribution to Human Rights."

In addition, we are delighted to honour Professor Harold Troper, winner of the 2012 Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award in Canadian Jewish Studies. The ACJS proudly recognizes the exceptional contribution Harold Troper has made to the study of Canadian Jewish history (please see cover story).

The full program of the conference is contained in this bulletin and available on our website: www.acjs-aejc.ca/conference.html.

Thank you to Rebecca Margolis for her efforts in putting this conference together. \Box

On the Book Shelf: **Books and articles** published by our members



SHARON GUBBAY HELFER (Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University) has contributed a chapter "Juifs et chrétiens en dialogue, des relations



millénaires renouvelées au Québec" to Dialogue des cultures et traditions monothéistes, recently published for the colloquium held on the 50th anniversary of the Institut de pastorale des Dominicains de Montréal (Les Éditions Novalis, 2012).

The volume is dedicated to the memory of Pierre Toth, one of the contributors to the colloquium, held September 10-11, 2010. Pierre died suddenly on November 5, 2010. He had been an invited professor in international affairs at HEC Montréal. He was also director of the Centre d'études Desjardins en gestion des coopératives de services financiers. In addition, Pierre Toth was a passionate and pioneering participant in a number of interreligious and intercultural dialogue initiatives in Montreal.



SEYMOUR MAYNE (University of Ottawa) is the guest editor of the double issue of Shirim: A Jewish Poetry Journal (Vol. XXIX, No. II (2011) and Vol. XXX, No. I (2012)), a California publication. The issue highlights Jewish Canadian poetry.

This double issue showcases "a diversity of voices, each writing out of and in response to the Jewish heritage and identity affirmed by the community as a whole.

"The concern with the past and its ever-present presence, the response to family members, usually parental, and the religious and political challenges in contemporary Jewish life invigorate the poetic conversation. The intensity of speech highlights their poetry in a manner that has been crucial to the development of Canadian literature since the 1930s, affirming its immigrant and ethnic diversity. These are poets who speak out of a different cultural matrix than American and British poets. Though much is shared in sensibility and thought, there is a unique Canadian sound and timber to their words."

The poets found in the pages of this issue are: Asa Boxer. Elizabeth Brewster, Jason Camlot, Leonard Cohen, Susan Glickman, Shel Krakofsky, Rochelle Mass, Seymour Mayne, Isa Milman, Sharon H. Nelson, Marty Newman, Merle Nudelman, Ruth Panofsky, B.Glen Rotchin, Robyn Sarah, Karen Shenfeld, Kenneth Sherman, David Solway, Rhea Tregebov, and Elana Wolff.



JUDITH COHEN (York University), performer and ethnomusicologist specializing in Judeo-Spanish ("Ladino") Sephardic songs, continues through her presentations and papers to de-mystify Judeo-Spanish and Crypto-Jewish ("Marrano") music, both at home in Toronto and abroad.

Here is just a small sampling of where her presentations have taken her and of the articles Judith has published. Her conference papers have taken her to Israel, Europe and the United States (Philadephia and Washington).

Most recently she has presented at the Canadian Institute of Mediterranean Studies in Toronto: "The bride has come out from the sea' - Sephardic songs around the Mediterranean" [2012 (Invited)]; at the History of Jews and Muslims Conference in Évora, Portugal: "We've always sung this' - the importance of an ethnographic/

Spotlight on Montreal

MONTREAL IS BURSTING

WITH CREATIVE

JEWISH ENERGY.

Part of this energy comes from

the vibrant multiplicity of Jewish-

lived experiences in the city. I

notice it as I walk through my

home base in Mile End, past my

Hassidic neighbours, friends from

the Mile End Chavurah or posters

by indie music promoters like

Passovah Productions. Part of

this energy comes from the

engagement of dedicated

individuals and institutions that

explore, promote and encourage

Jewish culture through an array of

educational or artistic

endeavours.

by Stephanie Tara Schwartz

Three community initiatives are particularly interesting for the activities of ACJS and might already be familiar to many of our members. LE MOOD, Shtetl and the Interactive Museum of Jewish Montreal are each actively involved in the production of Canadian Jewish knowledge and culture. These are projects that our membership may be interested in contributing to or sharing with colleagues, students and communities.

LEMOOD

http://www.lemood.ca/

Steered by Mike Savatovksy and a team of curators, inspired by the pioneering Limmud UK, LE MOOD is a festival of



alternative Jewish learning and culture. It seeks community involvement to suggest and create sessions relevant to Jewish education. Since its launch in spring 2011, over eighty different sessions were presented over the course of several events on themes ranging from "Can Canadian Courts Make Religious Decisions? – The Case of Bruker v. Markovitz" to "Mes deux amouts : le Judaïsme et le séparatisme." LE MOOD seeks ideas and organizers for sessions throughout the year.

SHTETL and SHTETL ON THE SHORTWAVE http://shtetlmontreal.com/

Edited and hosted by Tamara Kramer, Shtetl is an alternative online magazine and radio show with an inclusive take on Jewish arts and culture. Shtetl publishes articles, film reviews, personal narratives and fiction on a variety of Jewish themes from Canada and abroad.



It is an important vehicle for fostering dialogue on such issues as transgender Jews and connections between Jewish and indigenous experiences.

INTERACTIVE MUSEUEM OF JEWISH MONTREAL (IMJM) http://imjm.ca/

IMJM, founded and curated by Zev Moses, is an online and mobile museum of Montreal's Jewish history. When you visit IMJM's website you can access exhibits in French and English that tell the story of an individual or institution and view its location on a Google map. Each exhibit includes the possibility for community participation in contributing



photography or personal narratives about different exhibits. One of the goals of the project is to collect and present oral histories that link to specific geographical locations in Jewish Montreal. IMJM seeks volunteers to conduct research for exhibits and collect oral histories.

LE MOOD, Shtetl and IMJM are only three highlights of Montreal's vibrant Jewish scene.

What's going on in your Jewish community? Who are the cultural producers to whom we should be paying attention? In what other ways can we support the promotion of Canadian Jewish culture and history on local, provincial and national scales?

From our regions

The West...

Jewish Museum and Archives of British Columbia

For those heading out to Vancouver between May and September, the Jewish Museum and Archives of British Columbia offers an array of events and programs.

During the week on Wednesday evenings, the Jewish Museum and Archives hosts the Philosophers' Café: – "Where Ideas Percolate." Over coffee and dessert, weigh in



JEWISH MUSEUM & ARCHIVES of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Administered by The Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia

on "What We Mean When We Talk About God: Gaining Clarity in Our Own Jewish Theologies," which is just one of this summer's evening talks.

If you are in Vancouver in July, you can join a walking tour of the Jewish section of Vancouver's Mountain View Cemetery: a fascinating way to learn the stories of Vancouver's early Jewish residents.

Also throughout the summer, the Jewish Museum and Archives is hosting Genealogical Sunday with the Jewish Genealogical Institute of B.C. (JGIBC). JGIBC volunteers are available to help you navigate the databases and trace your Jewish roots.

For specific times and dates you can contact Kara Mintzberg, Education Coordinator of the Jewish Museum and Archives of B.C. (604-257-5199), or email <u>kmintzberg@jewishmuseum.ca</u>.

Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta

The Board of Directors and staff of The Jewish Archives and Historical Foundation of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (JAHSENA) are pleased to announce that we have completed the digitization of 90% of our oral history collection of approximately 200 interviews with Edmontonians and others of Jewish origin.

This project was completed thanks to a grant from the Archives Society of Alberta, with funds made available from the Alberta Historic Resources Foundation and the National Archival Development Program of the Canadian Council of Archives.

This \$7000 grant allowed JAHSENA to digitize our magnetic tape interviews to make them more easily accessible to users, as well as giving the interviews a longer

life. Magnetic cassette tape has become an obsolete technology, so it was imperative that we migrate



these interviews to digital format or they would be lost forever.

With the help of the Provincial Archives of Alberta's Archives Service Centre, we were able to use the expertise of staff members Terry O'Riordan and Tom Bernier to translate these tapes to digital format. They are now available in the JAHSENA office for researchers.

In addition, we are still working on creating summary guides for these interviews so that researchers will find it easier to access the specific information in these interviews which they may be looking for.

In the future, we will be using digital equipment such as digital video cams and iPods to record the history of our elders. This will make it much easier to preserve this information for the future and to allow easy access for our researchers and transmission of information via the Internet.

The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

This past winter JHSSA hosted two talks, "Who We Are & Where We Came From" about Eastern

European surnames and place names, presented by Alex Sharon, and "Tombstones: A Living Record," presented by archivist **Agi Romer Segal**.

For the coming season JHSSA is planning a number of special displays. In April a display about local Zionism will complement a visiting Herzl exhibit and in July a display on Jewish

involvement with the Calgary Stampede will mark the Stampede's centennial. JHSSA will again participate in the annual Historic Calgary Week at the end of July.



Ontario..

May is now Jewish Heritage Month in Ontario

[Excerpted from article by Andy Levy-Ajzenkopf, Staff Reporter Canadian Jewish News, Monday, February 27, 2012]

In October 2011, Eglinton-Lawrence Liberal MPP Mike Colle, Thornhill Conservative MPP Peter Shurman and High-Park New Democrat MPP Cheri DiNovo jointly sponsored Bill 17, the Jewish Heritage Month Act, which passed unanimously in the Ontario provincial legislature February 23, 2012.

Colle said he wanted to "honour the significant achievements of Jewish Canadians across Ontario.

"Besides the list of incredible Jewish individuals in the province's history... the legacy we need to pay attention to is the dogged determination [of Jews] to fight for social and human rights. That advocacy has left an indelible mark on the province," he said.

The act is the first of its kind to become law in Canada. Ontario is home to more than 200,000 Jews, making it the province with the largest Jewish demographic. There are an estimated 360,000 Jews in Canada.

The act proclaims: "Jewish Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the inspirational role that Jewish Canadians have played, and continue to play, in communities across Ontario."

Researching North Toronto's Jewish presence

In Toronto, **Bernard Katz**, former ACJS Treasurer, has recently joined the North Toronto Historical Society. While still working on the history of the Weidman family of Winnipeg, Bernie is now also undertaking a project regarding Jews who were residents of the former town of North Toronto. North Toronto was created in 1890, an amalgamation of the villages of Eglinton, Davisville and Mount Pleasant. In 1912, North Toronto was incorporated into the City of Toronto.

Bernie's research will begin with 1831, an auspicious time, as full political and religious rights were extended to include Jews (male) on June 5, 1832. At that time the population of Upper Canada was about 17,700, with only 107 Jews residing in all existing provinces. Bernie will take his research to either 1961 or 1971. He will be looking at actual families by name and occupation, as well as family size, for the years when nominal census returns are available.

We look forward to learning more about the Jewish connection to this early period of Canadian history.



Jewish Fiction.net An 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 a virtual home for writers and readers of Jewish fiction from around the world.

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Dr. Nora Gold, can be contacted at nora.gold@jewishfiction.net.

For more details, please visit our website or write <u>submissions@jewish fiction.net</u>.

Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Annual Conference

CONGRESS FOR HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Wilfrid Laurier University & University of Waterloo

May 30-31, 2012

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

LOCATION: SCHLEGEL BUILDING, WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY - ROOM SBE2260

9:00 – 10:00 AM: ACJS session 1 | Holocaust Survivors and Holocaust Culture

- Max Beer (CURA Project, Montreal Life Stories, Concordia Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling) "Postwar: Holocaust Survivors and the Montreal Jewish Community"
- Garry Smolyansky (York University), "We Are Also Survivors, Please Listen to our Stories: Adding the voices of Russian-speaking Jewish Holocaust Survivors to the Shoah Memorialization Culture in the Greater Toronto Area"

Chair: Robin Bergart (University of Guelph)

10:00 - 10:30 AM: Break

- 10:30 AM 12:00 PM: Annual General Meeting, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies
- 12:00 1:30 РМ: Lunch break
- 1:30 3:30 PM: ACJS session 2 | Canadian Jews During and After World War II
- Peter J. Usher (Independent researcher), "Jewish Enlistment and Service in the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II"
- Ira Robinson (Concordia University), "A Portrait of the Rabbi as a Young Man: Rabbi Pinchas Hirschprung's Memoir of His Escape from Europe to Canada"
- Jack Lipinsky (School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto), "Conflict on Every Level: Saul Hayes, the United Jewish Welfare Fund of Toronto, and the Orphans Project"
- Kata Bohus (Central European University, Budapest, Hungary), "Standing Together or Staying Apart? Contradictions of Integration among 1956-er Hungarian Jewish Refugees in Toronto"

Chair: Richard Menkis (University of British Columbia)

3:30 - 4:00 рм: Break

4:00 – 5:30 PM: ACJS session 3 | Conflicted Selves: Portraits from the 1930s

Richard Menkis (University of British Columbia), "Conflicted Selves: Sammy Luftspring and Toots Meretsky" Harold Troper (University of Toronto), "Conflicted Selves: Fred Herschorn and Sid Halter"

Respondent: Frank Bialystok (University of Toronto)

7:30 PM: Evening program

LOCATION: SCHEGEL BUILDING - KPMG ATRIUM

- Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award to be presented to Professor Harold (Hesh) Troper
- ACJS Keynote speaker: James Walker (University of Waterloo), "The Jewish Contribution to Human Rights"
- Launch of Nazi Germany, Canadian Responses (McGill-Queen's University Press)

THURSDAY, MAY 31

LOCATION: SCHLEGEL BUILDING - ROOM SBE2260

8:30 – 10:00 AM: Open Board Meeting, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

10:00 – 10:30 AM: Break

10:30 – 12:00 PM: ACJS session 4 | Canadian Synagogues

- Barry Stiefel (College of Charleston), "Building a House of Gathering on Our Own: Canadian Jews, Synagogues, and the Building Trades"
- Sara Tauben (Independent researcher), "Interpreting Architectural Traces of the Past: Historic Synagogues of Montreal and Europe"
- Barbara Weiser (Independent researcher), "Who is Doing the Chuppah?"
- Chair: Janice Rosen (*Canadian Jewish Congress* Charities Committee National *Archives*)

12:00 – 1:30 РМ: Lunch break

1:30 – 3:00 PM: ACJS session 5 | Holocaust Memory and Representation

- Rebecca Margolis (University of Ottawa), "Canadian Odes to Yiddish after the Holocaust"
- Faith Jones (University of British Columbia). "Grade's Quarrel in Montreal"
- Jason Chalmers (University of Ottawa), "Who Painted the Donkey? The Media Response to Yann Martel's Beatrice and Virgil"

Chair: Goldie Morgentaler (University of Lethbridge)

- 3:00 3:15 PM: Break
- 3:15 4:45 PM: ACJS session 6 | Canadian Jewish Identities
- Centre for Jewish Studies UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



🔱 Israel and Golda Koschitzky

Thank you to our sponsors

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Chair: Randal Schnoor (York University)

SOCIETY OF JEWISH STUDIES

Kelly Amanda Train (Ryerson University), "Am I

That Jew? North African Jewish Experiences in the Toronto Jewish Day School System and the

Establishment of Or Haemet Sephardic School"

Stephanie Tara Schwartz (University of Ottawa),

Rebecca Starkman (OISE, University of Toronto),

"Portraits of a Jewish American Princess: A Close-

up on Jewish Girls' Complex Identity Negotiations"

"Postcolonial Themes in Canadian Sephardic

4:45 - 5:45 PM: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, CANADIAN





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.

Yasher koach and mazal tov to...

DR. JACK LIPINSKY, whose book *Imposing Their Will: An Organizational History of Jewish Toronto, 1933-1948* (McGill-Queen's University Press) has won the Joseph

PROFESSOR REBECCA MARGOLIS (University of Ottawa) on the publication of *Jewish Roots, Canadian Soil: Yiddish*



Culture in Montreal, 1905-1945 (McGill-Queen's University Press).

PROFESSOR RUTH PANOFSKY (Ryerson University) on her new publication, *The Literary Legacy of the Macmillan*



Company of Canada: Making Books and Mapping Culture (University of Toronto Press).

Along with Professor Margolis, Professor Panofsky is the recipient of The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) ASPP support (Aid to Scholarly Publications), which allowed them to publish their recent books.



Brant Award of Ontario Historical Society, honouring the best book on multicultural history in Ontario published in the past two years. Link to the book: http://mqup.mcgill.ca/book.php?bookid=2617.

ACJS Board member **DR. STEPHANIE**

SCHWARTZ, who successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, "Double-Diaspora in the Literature and Film of Arab Jews" (Department of Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa). Schwartz's dissertation has been nominated for a



Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies thesis prize.



PROFESSOR IRA ROBINSON, who, as of June 1, 2012, will be director of Concordia University's Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies. Fundraising efforts for the support of the Institute and its programs will continue with the help and guidance of members of the Institute's

Board, especially Sara Tauben. For updates on the Institute's current projects see the Institute web site: <u>http://portico.concordia.ca/jchair/en/aboutus/index.htm.</u>

BARRY STIEFEL, ACJS Vice-President, and his wife on the birth of their daughter — a truly life-changing event. Mazal tov!





In Memoriam

RABBI JONATHAN V. PLAUT

Rabbi Jonathan V. Plaut, son of the late Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut and the late Elizabeth Strauss Plaut, passed away on April 17 at age 69 in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Rabbi Plaut was the founding editor of the Canadian Jewish Historical Society's *Journal* (1977-1984) and for many years was the regional vicepresident of the society (predecessor of the ACJS) for central Canada. His love of Canadian Jewish history can be seen through his many publications.

He wrote the prefaces for three collections of writings compiled by David Rome and published by the National Archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress in Montreal: On Sunday Observance, 1906 (1979); On the Early Harts (1980); and On the Early Harts - Their Contemporaries (1981-82). He edited and contributed to a *festschrift* for his father: *Through the* Sound of Many Voices (Lester & Orpen Dennys, 1982); and he both edited and wrote the introduction to a volume of his father's sermons: One Voice: The Selected Sermons of W. Gunther Plaut (Dundurn Press, 2007); and a volume of his father's other writings: Eight Decades: The Selected Writings of W. Gunther Plaut (Dundurn Press, 2008). He also edited a genealogy of the Plauts written by his mother, Elizabeth Strauss Plaut: The Plaut Family: Tracing the Legacy (Avotaynu, 2007).

Rabbi Plaut's major historical work was *The Jews* of Windsor, 1790-1990: A Historical Chronicle (Dundurn Press, 2007), which he had worked on extensively, from the time he was spiritual leader of Windsor's Congregation Beth El (1970-1984). His papers and research files are in Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa.

May his memory be for a blessing.

Bernard Katz

ALLAN RAYMOND

Allan Raymond (1922 - 2012) passed away Friday, March 9, 2012, in Montreal. Born in Lithuania, he arrived in Montreal in 1928. Outside his successful career as an insurance broker; he was deeply involved with many prominent organizations, including the Montreal Jewish Historical Society, the Westmount Historical Association, the St. James Literary Society, the MMFA, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, and the Jewish Public Library, where he donated a vast collection of historical material to the archives for future reference by students and researchers. He delivered a series of illustrated lectures dealing with Canadian Judaica at numerous institutions and conducted research for the Montreal *Gazette*'s Great Montreal Walks as well as for the television documentary "Six Decades."

May his memory be for a blessing.

Howard Gontovnick

JACK SWITZER

Jack Switzer (1937-2012) passed away after a lengthy illness. A native Calgarian, Jack was resident local historian for the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta and through the years had served as our writer, lecturer, Discovery editor and president.

He also made the wider community aware of the role Jews have played in the development of Alberta through his public lectures and his numerous articles in Alberta History and other collections. His dedication to the Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society helped bring the Montefiore Institute building to Heritage Park.

Jack helped to develop the JHSSA collection and was tireless in his efforts to unearth as much information as possible about our community. The community of Jewish historical researchers and archivists has lost an important friend with his passing.

May his memory be for a blessing.

Agi Romer Segal, Archivist (on behalf of JHSSA)



Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Annual General Meeting Minutes Monday, May 30, 2011 9:17 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

(Held during the ACJS Annual Conference University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University, Room 102 Head Hall)

Present: Pierre Anctil, Frank Bialystok, Paula Draper, Adara Goldberg, Sandra Morton Weizman, Norm Ravvin, Dan Rosenthal, Randal Schnoor, (Chair), Garry Smolyansky, Hernan Tesler-Mabe

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Norm Ravvin, seconded by Paula Draper, the minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting were approved.

President's Report (Randal Schnoor)

Randal Schnoor reported that the May 29 program was excellent. Several delegates partook in an organized field trip to an internment camp outside the city and learned a great deal from its volunteer founder and curator teacher Ed Caissie. He gave a tour of the museum facilities. Thanks both to Mr. Caissie and Paula Draper as well as to those who attended the trip.

Randal announced that the winner of the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award was Marcia Koven of Saint John, New Brunswick. She is the founder of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, a distinguished institution of great importance in the perpetuation of the study of Canadian Jewish history. Randal also noted that *Canadian Jewish News* Atlantic correspondent Joel Jacobson had written an excellent article outlining Marcia Koven's contributions to the Jewish community of Saint John.

Randal expressed his gratitude to the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University for providing support and food for the conference.

On a sad note, Randal mentioned the passing of Abraham Arnold on January 28, 2011. Abe was a former president of the Association. He was very passionate about Jewish studies and local historical societies and had very high expectations for the Association, which made him a great leader.

Frank Bialystok noted that he had learned a great deal from Abe. Randal mentioned that an oral history project has been started in Manitoba and it has been named the Abraham Arnold Oral History Project in his honour. The association has made a donation of \$100 to the project in memory of Abraham Arnold.

Acclaimed Yiddish writer Chava Rosenfarb also passed away this year, on January 30, 2011. She was 87. Norm Ravvin noted that he thought she was always going to be around as she was active until her last years.

Randal mentioned that between June 19 and June 22, the Association of Jewish Libraries' conference is taking place in Montreal, and a donation of \$150 has been given by the Association towards this event.

Randal noted that implementing Paypal has been regarded as a good move and has made membership renewal much easier. Randal shared a report of membership levels since 2005. He stated that so far, 85 members had paid, out of around 140. This was the level at which the Association was at last year in terms of paid members and therefore the membership level is considered stable.

Randal reported that a graduate student at Concordia University was hired to remind members via email and phone calls to pay.

On a motion by Pierre Anctil, seconded by Paula Draper, the President's report was approved.

Membership Report (Randal Schnoor)

This item was discussed during the President's Report.

Bulletin Report

(Susan Landau-Chark's report read by Randal Schnoor)

Again I want to thank Shirley Muhlstock Brodt for "the extra steps" she takes in her work on the Bulletin. Shirley had her vacation this past April (family coming in for Passover), and yet she made time to work on the Bulletin. Her input, her ideas, and her skills in visualizing the end product are very much appreciated. I gather the content, and Shirley works her magic. I am pleased to announce that Shirley has agreed to work with me again as Bulletin producer.

As for the gathering of the information, members need to note that deadlines are not as flexible as in previous years. By staying with a print copy we are limited by the number of pages available. Once the 16 (maximum) pages are filled, any notices or articles that could not be used are pushed into the next edition of the Bulletin. The amount of material that can be used at any given time is not such an issue with e-newsletters. May I remind members that besides the number of pages not being an issue with the e-Bulletin, the e-Bulletin would be in colour and it does look very nice.

Please remember when the call goes out requesting information for the Bulletin, respond early and with full details, and ensure that you are up to date with your membership dues. May I also remind members that both the Fall 2010 Bulletin and Spring Bulletin have requested members indicate whether they would like to receive their Bulletin by email or through the post. Printing costs and postage are increasing, and there are advantages to going paperless.

For those who pay through Paypal, please remember to keep the Association up to date with any address or email changes, as payment through Paypal is not accompanied by your renewal form.

Randal noted that the Bulletin had been doing very well over the past few years under Susan's authority. Shirley Brodt has been helping Susan with the layout, and this partnership will continue.

The question of a paperless option was raised and a discussion of whether members should be allowed to opt in or out took place. It was agreed that the process would be gradual and that those who wished to have a paper copy could but those who wanted a paperless copy could also be accommodated.

Randal mentioned that the paperless-copy option would save the Association significant money, making the funds available for other projects.

On a motion by Pierre Anctil, seconded by Norm Ravvin, the Bulletin report was approved.

Randal noted that Barry Stiefel has been elected Vice-President, replacing Susan Landau-Chark.

Conference Report

(Report by Rebecca Margolis, read by Randal Schnoor)

Rebecca reported that the planning and execution of this year's conference went very smoothly thanks to new technological advances. However, there were some issues with catering due to miscommunication.

Norm Ravvin raised the issue of poor conference attendance in smaller communities. He noted that he attempted to get the community involved but the local rabbi did not communicate with him at all.

Pierre Anctil suggested that the conference program be published early and on a broader scale to attract a bigger crowd. If the local community knows someone of great importance is speaking and that the papers are about interesting and diverse topics, they are more likely to attend.

Frank Bialystok stated that the Jewish community of Saint John should have been more involved. He pointed to a disturbing but true trend: the fact that Canadian Jews are simply not interested in Canadian Jewish studies.

A suggestion was made to invite Professor James Walker of Waterloo as a keynote speaker next year to talk about human rights in Canada. His prestige and good track record would hopefully attract a large local crowd.

On a motion by Hernan Tesler-Mabe, seconded by Frank Bialystok, the Conference report was approved.

Journal Report

(Report by Rebecca Margolis, read by Randal Schnoor)

Randal Schnoor noted that the ACJS journal was in good shape. The 2008-2009 volume was published and the 2010-2011 volume was in progress. Therefore the journals have almost caught up.

Rebecca Margolis asked for a managing editor to help speed up the publication process as well as ensure the journal is top quality. Several volunteers have stepped forward.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Membership Renewal & Bulletin Delivery

ALL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS TO THE ASSOCIATION CAN NOW BE MADE ONLINE USING PAYPAL. SIMPLY GO TO <u>WWW.ACJS-AEJC.CA</u> TO RENEW.

ALSO NOTE ...

This is the last automatic mailing of hard copies of the ACJS Bulletin. The autumn 2012 Bulletin will arrive via email unless we are otherwise notified.

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 and confirm your email address, kindly send a brief note to hvallee@cjccc.ca.

Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Open Board Meeting Tuesday, May 31, 2011 9:33 a.m.-10:28 a.m.

(Held during the ACJS Annual Conference University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University, Room 102 Head Hall)

Present: Pierre Anctil, Frank Bialystok, Paula Draper, Adara Goldberg, Daniel Maoz, Sandra Morton Weizman, Norm Ravvin, Ira Robinson, Randal Schnoor (Chair), Garry Smolyansky, Barry Stiefel, Hernan Tesler-Mabe

Approval of 2010 Open Board Minutes

On a motion by Ira Robinson, seconded by Pierre Anctil, the Open Board Meeting minutes of 2010 were approved.

Treasurer's Report

(By Robin Bergart, read by Randal Schnoor, ACJS President)

Randal Schnoor read Robin's report. It stated that the assets of the association were at a good level. Revenues were coming in from membership dues and donations, and the largest expense was the conference.

The previous Webmaster of the ACJS website sadly passed away this year. However, an able replacement has been found by the name of Arie Chark.

The ACJS has also become a member of the CFHSS to lower delegate fees. As a non-member, the Association was paying a set fee but it had become more affordable to pay a per-delegate fee at this point.

The report also discussed projections of expenditures and incomes for the coming year, which were similar to those from this year.

On a motion by Daniel Maoz, seconded by Pierre Anctil, the Treasurer's report was approved.

Museum and Heritage Committee Report (Barry Stiefel)

Barry stated that in the United States, there was a Jewish Heritage Month, which seemed like a good idea to bring over to Canada. However, members of the association voiced their concern over the huge time and financial commitment that would need to be made to carry out the project. Delegates agreed to discuss the matter further but to start on a smaller scale, like Jewish Heritage Day.

In addition, Barry pointed out the new web page on the ACJS website dedicated to the preservation of important Canadian Jewish sites. He discussed the idea of creating a plaque system to mark Jewish heritage sites on Canadian soil.

Good and Welfare (Randal Schnoor)

Randal Schnoor, on behalf of all delegates, thanked Rebecca Margolis for her good work in organizing the conference and coordinating with Daniel Maoz of the CSJS.

Election of Slate (Barry Stiefel)

Barry Stiefel reported on the proposed slate of Board members as it appears in the spring 2011 bulletin.

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: TBD 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

Hernan Tesler-Mabe

Board Members for 2011-2014

Pierre Anctil

Board Members for 2010-2013

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

Board Members for 2010-2012

Stan Asher (QC)	Stuart Schoenfeld (ON)
David Koffman (NY)	William Shaffir (ON)

Seymour Mayne (ON) Richard Menkis (BC) Stephanie Schwartz (ON) Henry Srebnick (PEI) Ronnie Tessler (BC) Morton Weinfeld (QC)

Adjournment

The meeting was called to a close at 10:28 a.m.

Continued from page 4

ethnomusicological perspective for historical studies," [2012 (Invited)]; in Israel: "Were the 'Last Marranos' the last?: Portuguese Crypto-Jews in Film," Music and Minorities (ICTM)" [2012]; at the British Academy (London, UK): "No worries, husband – that's just the milkmaid in our bed' – women and their stories in Sephardic and European song traditions," Conference on Gossip, Gospel, Governance: Orality in Europe 1400-1700, [2011 (Keynote)].

In Philadelphia, Judith presented "'One more rose joined the circle': gender roles, religious observance and play-party dances among rural Portuguese Crypto-Jews" in 2011 at the panel on Jewish women and music, Society for Ethnomusicology, and also in 2011 at the Library of Congress "Sephardic music: myths and (relative) realities."

Her most recent publications are: "A Bosnian Sephardic Woman on a Canadian First Nations Reserve, and Her Observations on Music" in Acts of the Musicology Conference, Sarajevo 2010, ed., Jasmina Talam (2012); "The Role of Music in the Quebec Sephardic Community" in Contemporary Sephardic Identity in the Americas: A Collection of Interdisciplinary Studies, ed. Margalit Bejarano (2012); "Ibiza and Formentera: Worlds of Singers and Songs" in Island Songs: A Global Repertoire, ed., Godfrey Baldacchino (London, Toronto, Plymouth: The Scarecrow Press, 2011): 223-45; 'No so komo las de agora'(I'm not like those modern girls): Judeo-Spanish songs meet the twenty-first century" in European Judaism, 44 (1) 2011: 150-64; and "Portuguese Crypto-Jews and constructed musical identities" in Mise en scène des territoires musicaux : tourisme, patrimoine et performance, eds., M. Desroches, M-H. Pichette, C Dauphin and G. H. Smith (2011):325-38.

For a more complete listing of Judith's works and music, visit her website, <u>www.yorku.ca/judithc/MainEng.htm</u>, and for her academic accomplishments, view her CV page.

SHELLEY HORNSTEIN (York University) has published *Losing Site: Architecture, Memory and Place* (Surrey, England: Ashgate Publishing, 2011). The book is an eclectic assemblage of pieces that riff on the intersection of architecture, memory and place.

One chapter discusses Toronto artist Nina Levitt's work on Jewish spies in World War II, another works with Toronto and German artist Iris Haussler's installation at Honest Ed's entitled "Honest Threads," which connects Jewish memory and place to articles of clothing lent by



Jewish Torontonians to Haussler for the show. There are yet other pieces that take up Holocaust memorials in Berlin as well as the memorial to Walter Benjamin by Israeli artist Dani Karavan in northeastern Spain.

The last chapter in the book discusses former Montrealer Robert Rosenstone's diasporic novel. \Box

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:



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ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDES JUIVES CANADIENNES

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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

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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 Dara Solomon, Director UJA Federation of Greater Toronto 4600 Bathurst Street Toronto, ON M2R 3V2 Phone: 416- 635-2883 (ext. 5170); Fax: 416-849-1006 E-mail: oja1@ujafed.org Website: www.ontariojewisharchives.org

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: <u>sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca</u> Website: http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/sjjhm/

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