

**ACJS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, June 1, 2015
UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM, Eastern Time.

Present: Barry Steifel (President and Chair), Frank Bialystok, Meghan Cavanagh, Mark Celinscak, Gary Davis, Sarah Jane Kerr-Lapsley, David Koffman, Simon-Pierre Lacasse, Rebecca Margolis, Richard Menkis, Ira Robinson, Annelise Rodrigo, Janice Rosen (Secretary), Stephanie Schwartz, Randal Schnoor, Agi Romer-Segal, Hernan Teslar-Mabe, Peter Usher.

1) Call to order and approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: Barry Steifel
The 2014 Annual General Meeting minutes were approved as published in the Spring 2015 Bulletin, with a motion by Hernan Teslar Mabe; seconded by Barry; passed.

2) Annual Reports

a. President's Report- Barry Steifel

Barry read the following report:

"This has been my first year as president of the ACJS, where I took on the role at our 2014 annual conference at Brock University in St. Catherines, Ontario. Over the past year I have attempted to plant some seeds that will hopefully benefit the organization over the coming years. The first, which will have a session at our upcoming conference in Ottawa, is an Educators' Roundtable. The purpose of the Educators' Roundtable is to create a forum for improving the quantity and quality of Canadian Jewish studies subjects taught at the primary, secondary, and university levels; strengthen the Canadian Jewish Studies field by better understanding the opportunities of Canadian Jewish Studies skills in the job market; and establishing a means for Canadian Jewish Studies educators across the country, and at all levels (from the teaching of children, to higher education, to senior continuing education) to be in conversation with one another. Professor Ira Robinson of Concordia University will moderate this as our new Academic Committee Chair. I believe that through self-reflection and dialogue in the way we conduct Canadian Jewish Studies education we can do a better job of it.

Another seed, which will hopefully bear fruit with the involvement of everyone, was a survey for institutional improvement designed by Allie Cuperfain, SJ Kerr-Lapsley, and myself. Many of you participated in this survey August-October 2014. SJ Kerr-Lapsley has recently compiled a report of results from the survey, which we will discuss later this meeting."

=> The report was received and accepted, without comment.

b. Treasurer's Report – Janice Rosen on behalf of Emily Lam

Janice circulated copies of the report to all, along with the Proposed Budget for 2015-2016. In summary, Emily's report shows an increase in revenue from membership and donations, but also increased expenses from the cost of desktop publishing for the Bulletin as well as from the number of paper copies requested by members. Congress (CFHSS) membership fees have increased due to an annual 1% raise in their cost per delegate fee. The full report can be seen in Appendix 1.

Discussion: Rebecca Margolis noted the lack of growth in the area of investments.

After noting that the Proposed Budget includes a deficit of over \$2000, a discussion ensued about how to reduce the deficit in subsequent years. The ideas put forward included:

Barry: we should economize – coordinate by committees

Rebecca: Part of the reason we are short of funds is that our investments have not been growing at all. We should elect Frank Bialystok as Finance Chair and have him handle this aspect, because he has the expertise to invest the association's funds wisely.

Barry and others approve of this idea.

Gary Davis proposes a focus on increasing memberships – suggested that we bring in more associated society members who are not academically-affiliated at a lower rate.

Regarding the proposed budget it was noted by David Koffman that the amount budgeted for the Journal was incorrect by \$1500, as that amount was being provided via a grant from York University's LA&PS Support for Scholarly Journals fund in the coming year, thus reducing the amount required from ACJS, and reducing the projected deficit. Noting that the Journal is now available online, David suggested the possibility of allowing members to opt out of receiving the paper version of the publication in order to be members at a reduced rate, but then countered this idea by speculating that the savings from printing only a few Journals on demand would be probably be insignificant, as the current number of printed Journals is already a minimal order.

Rebecca – rather than cutting back we should be expanding our activities and finding a way to fund them. We need to offer more activities and assets; the price is not the issue. Need to get back to our grassroots, as we are losing touch with our members. She suggests reaching out through archives and historical societies.

Agi Romer Segal (Calgary) notes that these groups are becoming more active now in some of the outlying regions. She suggests that ACJS could subsidize scholars from the centre of the country to come out to other regions to give a lecture.

David suggests that Barry draw up a list of these “value-added” suggestions:

- Selling “swag” – items such as Society tee-shirts
- Reaching out to grassroots
- Increasing investment portfolio
- more student engagement (promoting ACJS to younger scholars)
- Creating a Speakers' Bureau

Richard Menkis notes that AJS maintains a Speakers' Bureau – a list of scholars could be provided to our Affiliate organizations (those who pay the \$180 membership), and they would get a free lecture if a scholar was already going to be somewhere near that area.

Re: promoting ACJS to students, Stephanie Schwartz notes that students get a lot of benefit from participation in the Annual Conference; developing skills in speaking, adding to their CVs, the possibility of being published. Hernan Teslar-Mabe notes that students should be further encouraged to write papers. David comments that he has made an arrangement for some student papers from his classes to be published on the Ontario Jewish Archives website.

Barry raises the idea of using LinkedIn for Society promotion. Stephanie noted that one-to-one, face-to-face contact is most effective. Hernan adds that direct digital contact can work as well.

Peter Usher raises the question of membership advantages for non-academics: what happens locally? Ira Robinson notes that Jewish historical societies no longer exist in Montreal or Toronto and should perhaps be encouraged again; others note that the Jewish Genealogical societies in these cities have taken on this role. Frank Bialystok notes that we need to engage local communities more with the conference.

Simon-Pierre Lacasse notes the importance of using social media for relating the Jewish experience to other shared experiences. An updated website would help in this approach. Possibly showing local neighborhood sites in the past and present? Rebecca counters that this type of development on the website would require Committee member involvement, as the present website administrator can only commit to a few hours of work on an occasional basis.

Before voting on the proposed budget, David Koffman reminds those present that the total amount budgeted for the Journal should be reduced by \$1500, due to the York University grant. Rebecca raises the question as to whether changes could be made to the budget in the course of the year: Barry says yes, after a discussion with the president and treasurer.

- i. Motion: To accept the 2015 Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget for 2016, as well as the Proposed Budget, with the understanding that a correction to the projected Journal Expense total will be made.

=> Ira moved to receive the report as presented. Frank seconded. Approved.

- ii. Motion: To re-appoint Silver & Goren as auditors for the 2015 fiscal year.

=> Janice moved, Randal seconded. Approved.

c. Secretary's Report – Janice Rosen

Janice reported on her last year as Secretary, thanking Ira for the assistance / assistants provided through his department, and expressing hope for a smooth transition to the new Secretary, with the help of access remote technology. She noted that more coordination with regard to membership information is important.

The full text of this report is in Appendix 2.

d. Bulletin Report- Sarah Jane (SJ) Kerr-Lapsley

Sara Jane reported:

“My heartfelt thanks go to Shirley Muhlstock Brodt, Susan Landau-Chark, Randal Schnoor, and Barry Stiefel for their patience and assistance as I transitioned into this role. Though I struggled to balance the bulletin's timing with my coursework – negotiating deadlines that fell during midterms and finals – both the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 bulletins came together smoothly thanks to Shirley's hard work and dedication, and Randal and Barry's support and assistance. Many thanks as well to Georgia and Lillooet for printing and uploading the bulletin, and to each and every ACJS member who contributed their news and updates, and offered their assistance.

I am stepping down with the hope that I will be selected to coordinate next year's conference in Calgary, and I recommend Rebecca Margolis for the position of Bulletin Editor.”

e. Journal Report (David Koffman and Stephanie Schwartz, co-editors)

David and Stephanie report*: *“Canadian Jewish Studies has had an extraordinary academic year, 2014-2015. The journal published two special volumes, one dated 2013, and the second 2014, putting the journal back on track to publish annually, with the volume published in the same calendar, membership and production year, beginning later in 2015. We remain in good financial standing, and have taken steps to increase the reach of the journal, its attractiveness, and its breadth of relevant content. (...) The journal remains on schedule for the publication of Volume 23 in the summer or fall, 2015.*

The co-editors are pleased to report the solidification of a regular sub-section of the journal entitled "Archives Matter," in which a consortium of archivists working across Canada's Jewish archives select a theme, curate artifacts, and write short pieces that showcase Canadian Jewish archival holdings and their relevance to the mission of the ACJS, ensuring a geographically balanced presentation of materials.

We are equally pleased to announce the inclusion of a new, additional special regular sub-section to the journal devoted to "Translation," scheduled to begin with Vol.23. Recognizing the importance of translation and of the multi-lingual nature of the Canadian Jewish experience, the co-editors have established a consortium of translators who will work together to select texts of scholarly interest to Canadian Jewish life from a language other than French or English (Arabic, Farsi, Hebrew, Russian, Yiddish, etc.) to be included in the journal in translation in every issue.

We are pleased to announce that the journal was awarded a grant for 2015-2017 from York University, for \$1500, to help cover the costs of copy editing, translation, web and design improvements.

We have retained a new layout editor who has made several aesthetic changes to the cover, colours, font and format of our printed (and PDF) pages, all of which we believe is to the benefit of the ACJS. (...) (Graduate student) Elizabeth Moorhouse-Stein, who assisted with on volume 21 will be staying as a production assistant for volume 22.

It should be noted that our url has recently changed to: <http://cjs.journals.yorku.ca> and should be updated in any relevant documents or weblinks.

The editors wish to acknowledge Guest Editors Shannon Hodge and Franklin Bialystok, Book Review Editor Ira Robinson, Archives Matter Editor Janice Rosen, Copyeditor Elizabeth Moorehouse-Stein, Translator Antoine Burgard, administrative support from Cimminee Holt and Georgia Carter, the staff of Hignell Printing, graphic designer Derek Broad, and ongoing support from Emily Lam and Barry Stiefel in the production of Canadian Jewish Studies. We would also like to thank Pierre Anctil and Vivian Felsen, who have agreed to spearhead our new translation section."

* The full text of this slightly abridged version of the report is in Appendix 3.

f. Membership Report – Barry Steifel for Steven Lapidus, Membership Chair

Based on the latest figures available before the conference, Steven reported that:

- *There are 89 paid-up members for 2015, an increase of 44 since 2014.*
- *Membership breaks down as follows:*
 - *Regular (and affiliates): 36*
 - *Student 11*
 - *Institutional 19*
 - *Senior 22*
 - *Donor 1*
 - ***TOTAL: 89****

*(Note added June 17) As a result of the conference we added 13 complimentary individual members (Community Day attendees) and 1 complimentary institutional member (the

Ottawa Jewish Historical Society) as well as 2 additional individuals, bringing the total to 105.

g. Conference Report – (Rebecca Margolis)

Rebecca reported:

“Planning for this year’s conference has gone very smoothly. The online system now works very well, which makes the technical side of things much easier. Everyone registered for the Congress on time and there have been very few cancellations (only 2). This year brings in many new faces, which is exciting, including a number of panels in French. In this spirit, we have translated our acceptance letter and programme into French so that they are bilingual. I recommend broadening this venture by doing more active outreach to more colleagues doing work in Canadian Jewish Studies and in comparative fields in both English and French. I will be stepping down as Chair and recommend that Sarah Jane Kerr-Lapsley fill the position, with me working with her as needed in the transition and bequeathing her with all of my spreadsheets, form letter and other files.”

h. Archives Report – Barry Steifel for Dara Solomon, Archives Committee Chair

Dara’s report highlighting cooperative and other notable efforts recently undertaken by Canadian Jewish Archives was summarized by Barry, who noted in particular that:

“The Archives Committee came together in 2013 to create a section in the Canadian Jewish Studies Journal called “The Archives Matter,” and have published two issues so far, highlighting various topics related to the Canadian Jewish Archives community. Members from the Archives Committee will also present Outside the (Archival) Box: Bringing Canadian Jewish History to the Public at this year’s ACJS Annual conference in Ottawa. “

The complete text of the report is provided in Appendix 4.

i. Website Report – Barry Steifel reporting for Robin Bergart

Barry summarized Robin’s report describing how, following the implementation of various revisions by Robin, the website is now managed by a contracted assistant, Lillian Nordlinger. It was noted that since this position is only for a few hours a week, any substantive changes to the way the website is set up has to be the responsibility of a separate person.

The complete text of this report is provided in Appendix 5.

j. Nominations Report

Barry congratulated Pierre Anctil as the 2015 recipient of the Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award and thanked the Committee for their time in the deliberation.

3) Election of New Slate – Barry Stiefel, Chair of Nominations

The following slate was presented, as noted in the pre-circulated agenda:

a. Officers

President: Barry Stiefel

Vice-President: Rebecca Margolis

Treasurer: Emily-Rose Lam

Secretary: Allie Cuperfain

Past President: Randal Schnoor

b. Executive Committee Chairs

Journal Editors: David Koffman and Stephanie Schwartz
Bulletin Editor: Rebecca Margolis
Chair, Communities and Archives: Dara Solomon
Chair, Membership: Steven Lapidus
Chair, Programs & Conference: Sarah Jane "SJ" Kerr-Lapsley
Book Review Editor: Michael Rom
Chair, Academic Committee: Ira Robinson
Chair, Finance: Frank Bialystok
Chair, Nominations: Hernan Tesler-Mabe
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Yiddish in Canada: Bernie Katz

=> Agi motioned to pass the Officers and Executive slate for 2015-2016 as circulated, seconded by David. The slate was adopted unanimously.

c. Honorary Officer

Jerry Silver

=> Frank motioned to accept Jerry Silver as Honorary Officer and Rebecca seconded. Passed.

d. Website

Lillooet Nordlinger

e. New Board Members for 2015-2018

Deidre Butler (ON)
Janice Rosen (QC)
Susan Landau-Chark (ON)
Jonathan Sarna (MA)

Existing Board Members

Pierre Anctil (QC, 2015-2017)
SJ Kerr-Lapsley (AB, 2015-2017)
Gary Davis (NB, 2015-2016)
Robin Bergart (ON, 2015-2016)
Frank Bialystok (ON, 2015-2016)
Bernie Katz (ON, 2015-2016)

Discussion: Although not a nominated position, Howard Gontovnick's efforts in maintaining the ACJS Listserve were appreciatively acknowledged. David introduced the new Book Review chair Michael Rom, who is a scholar at York University. He will begin after the 2015 issue of the Journal, which is still being arranged by Ira.

Hernan and Rebecca note that there should be a Director of Marketing and Technology position who would take responsibility for enhancing the website and other types of promotion through electronic means. Perhaps on next year's slate?

Barry notes that it would require a By-law change to add this proposed position and that of the Listserve Administrator to the list of nominated positions.

=> Frank motioned to accept the slate of Board members and Sara-Jane seconded. Passed.

New Business

Several items listed in the Agenda under “New Business” were tabled for discussion at the Open Board Meeting the following day:

- 4) Conclusions of first (Jewish Educators) Roundtable, held Sunday, May 31:
Barry reports that reaction was very positive, and that this is hopefully the beginning of more to come. To be followed-up by Ira Robinson and Barry.
- 5) TABLED: Discussion of results from ACJS Survey for Institutional Improvement:
 - a. Does the information collected within the survey seem accurate?
 - b. Where should we go from here?
 - i. Membership
 - ii. Financial
 - iii. Journal and other scholarly activities
 - iv. Bulletin and other means of communication
 - v. Special Projects (2017 commemoration, involvement in Jewish education, partnering with other organizations, etc.)
- 6) TABLED: Changing the system for ACJS travel reimbursement (Rebecca Margolis).
- 7) Proposed Speaker’s Bureau: (So far only Seymour Mayne and Barry Steifel have shown interest and provided materials. Anyone else?)
- 8) TABLED: Motion to create the Intercultural Liaison Ad-Hoc Committee, with Simon-Pierre Lacasse as Chair (Rebecca Margolis).
- 9) TABLED: Next year in Calgary, location of Congress in 2016. Discussion?
- 10) Other/ Good and Welfare

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM

APPENDIX 1: TREASURER'S REPORT AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2016

ACJS / AÉJC Treasurer's Report
 University of Ottawa, May 31, 2015 – June 2, 2015
 Submitted by Emily Lam, Treasurer

I. Net Assets

As of December 31	Total Investments & Cash Assets
2014	TBD
2013	\$37,457
2012	\$40,431
2011	\$41,416
2010	\$39,588

Our financial records were sent to Silver & Goren in March for income tax filing. The final amount of our net assets will be determined shortly when I receive the income tax forms for their submission to CRA and Revenue Québec by the end of May.

As of December 31, 2014, the market value of our Investor's Group account was \$28,651.39. The market value of this account has decreased from last year (\$34,997.80) as \$6,500 of these funds was re-allocated into our chequing account.

II. Expenses

Journal

The expenses associated with the journal include items such as layout and design, copyediting, French translation, image use fees, printing, and mailing.

Total Journal Expenses				
2008 Vol. 16/17	2011 Vol. 18/19	2012 Vol. 20	2013/2014 Vol. 21	2014 Vol. 22
\$3,457	\$4,259*	\$3,999*	\$3,688*	\$604* **

**Total does not include additional postage and mailing costs.*

***Total represents the cost for insertion, postage, and courier to Canada Post only. Additional costs were covered by the Jewish Public Library in Montreal.*

In April 2015, the journal was approved for \$1,500 in funding provided by York University's LA&PS Support for Scholarly Journals fund. The application was submitted by our journal editors, David Koffman and Stephanie Schwartz, and is specifically meant to help offset costs associated with layout and design, copyediting, and translation. While this list does not include all of the costs associated with the publication of the journal, the additional support in these areas will help enable us to invest more into the production of the upcoming 2015 issue.

As indicated on the proposed budget for 2016, the LA&PS funding will be used in addition to our own budgeted amount allocated for journal expenses.

Bulletin

The expenses associated with the bulletin include items such as editing, publishing, printing, and mailing.

Total Bulletin Expenses				
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Spring Vol. 24:1 Autumn Vol. 24:2	Spring Vol. 25:1 Autumn Vol. 25:2	Spring Vol. 26:1 Autumn Vol. 26:2	Spring Vol. 27:1 Autumn Vol. 27:2	Spring Vol. 28:1 Autumn Vol. 28:1
\$865	\$1,186	\$815	\$684	\$1,049

Since the option to receive an electronic copy of the bulletin by email was introduced in 2011, the expenses for printing and mailing appeared to be steadily decreasing. However, in 2014, the expenses associated with the bulletin jumped back up to a figure that is similar to what we paid in 2011.

Based on the expense information I have, this increase from our past two years of figures can be explained by two factors:

- 1) Before 2012, there were no costs for layout, proofreading, and editing the bulletin, and
- 2) The amount spent on printing, envelopes, and mailing depends on the number of paying members who have also requested a hardcopy version of the bulletin.

As our membership continues to grow, the electronic version of the bulletin should continue to be strongly encouraged in order to minimize printing and mailing costs, which accounted for 43% of the total expense in 2014.

Annual Conference

The expenses associated with the conference include items such as travel subsidies, student awards, honorariums, banquet, coffee breaks, A/V rentals, etc.

Year / Place of Annual Conference	Total Cost*
2014 Saint Catharines	\$1,897
2013 Victoria	\$3,485
2012 Waterloo	\$3,200
2011 Fredericton	\$4,400
2010 Montreal	\$4,800

**Total does not include Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) yearly membership fee.*

In 2013, we paid the (CFHSS) \$979 for our yearly membership and received \$902 in conference registration fees. In 2014, we paid CFHSS \$1000 for our yearly membership and received \$855 in conference registration fees. The increased amount for CFHSS membership fees resulted from an annual 1% raise in their cost per delegate fee.

The total cost for each conference depends on the location, number of delegates, and number of travel subsidies awarded that year. In 2014, our general conference costs were as expected, but the amount of travel subsidies granted was minimal in comparison to previous years.

For this year's conference, Simon-Pierre Lacasse (University of Ottawa) translated various conference materials such as the conference paper acceptance letter, materials related to the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award as well as proofreading the French conference programme for a small honorarium. In addition to the expenses typically budgeted for the conference, I propose that some funds should be allotted for French translation and proofreading of conference materials. The proposed 2016

budget for the conference reflects this additional allotment in the event that the proposed inclusion is approved.

Motion: To include French translation and proofreading services for conference materials within our annual conference budget.

III. Revenue

The Association's revenue is primarily generated from membership dues and donations. Additional revenue is generated from journal sales, conference registration fees, and copyright fees.

Total Revenue				
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
\$13,030	\$10,030	\$9,642	\$7,459	\$15,671 (\$9,171)

The amount of \$15,671 includes the \$6,500 that was transferred from our Investor's Group account in March 2014. After deducting this amount, our total revenue generated by means noted above in 2014 was \$9,171 – a significant 19% increase in revenue from the previous year.

Membership Fees

Revenue from Membership				
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
\$5,887	\$4,551	\$6,426	\$5,569	\$7,463

As reflected in the table above, the Association's increase in paying members has significantly contributed to our annual revenue generated from these dues.

Donations

Revenue from Donations				
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
\$4,374	\$1,510	\$2,133	\$1,036	\$1,679

Similarly to the revenue generated from membership fees, donations to the Association in 2014 increased by 38% from the previous year.

Motion: To accept the 2015 Treasurer's Report and the Proposed Budget for 2016.

Motion: To re-appoint Silver & Goren as auditors for the 2015 fiscal year.

ACJS / AÉJC Proposed Budget for January–December 2016

University of Ottawa, May 31, 2015 – June 2, 2015

Submitted by Emily Lam, Treasurer

Expenditures

Canadian Jewish Studies Journal (editorial assistant and copyeditor, translation, layout and design, image usage fees, printing, and mailing) \$4,500
\$1,500*

*Funds provided by York University's LA&PS Support for Scholarly Journals fund and not included in total.

ACJS Bulletin (2 issues per year: editing, publishing, printing, and mailing) \$ 950

Annual conference expenditures (travel subsidies, honorariums, French translation and proofreading, A/V rental, award plaque, CFHSS membership, student awards, president's subsidy, coffee break, and banquet) \$4,500

Donations from ACJS \$200

Advertising \$0

Bank Charges \$185

Filing Corporate Fees (Quebec and Canada) \$65

Office & General Expenses \$1,400
(student assistant and other misc. costs)

Postage \$300

Web Site (maintenance, file backup hosting, and domain name renewal until 2017) \$480

TOTAL \$12,580

Revenue

Membership dues \$7,500

Private Individual Donations \$1,500

Interest on Investments \$0

Sale of Back Issues of Journal \$100

Conference \$ 855

Sale of Bulletin Advertising \$ 0

Copyright Fees \$35

TOTAL \$9,990

PROJECTED SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FISCAL 2015 (\$2,590)

APPENDIX 2: SECRETARY'S REPORT

ACJS SECRETARY REPORT 2015 JANICE ROSEN

“My report this year would nearly echo that of the previous year, were it not for the fact that this is my last year as Secretary, and after this conference I assume I will be handing the functions of this position over to a new person – in fact, though it may not be correct to name that person in this report, I can reassure you that someone has already shown an interest in taking over the job, and has consulted with me about what is involved. So I have high hopes for a smooth transition.

Once again I praise Ira Robinson's generosity in allowing his office assistant to help with the clerical work involved in the Secretary function such as the mailings by email and by post, the forwarding of cheques to the treasurer, and the issuing of invoices to standing order clients such as libraries. The smoothness of interactions between this assistant and the Secretary was facilitated by the proximity of the Canadian Jewish Studies office to where I work: on the same campus and usually merely a floor away. This will not be the case when the Secretary is no longer located in the same city as the clerical assistant, so the new team will have to make some adjustments to how things are done. However, with the use of remote access tools such as Google Drive and PDF documents sent by email, we are in a far better position to do this successfully than we would have been a few years ago. With our Treasurer in one city, the conference organizer in another, and the website interface being run from somewhere else (not to mention a President who is in another country!) we already do have the habit of working in a virtual office.

As in previous years, my biggest challenge as Secretary has been keeping the membership database up to date and accessible to others who need information from it; and again this goes back to the fragmented nature of our band of collaborators. Since the Secretary can't see the Paypal payments as they arrive, or the cheques that show up by mail, the only way to keep the data current is to have timely input from the parties that do receive this information directly. I hope these lines of communication can continue and even improve over the coming term.

Since I took steps last year to make all the information in the membership database exportable via Excel, you can consider it “packed and ready to move”. So all that remains is for me to say my good-byes... It has always been a pleasure working with the ACJS team, and I have enjoyed being involved in the inner workings of such a worthy organization. Long may it endure and grow!”

APPENDIX 3: JOURNAL UPDATE

ACJS - *Canadian Jewish Studies* Journal Annual Update, 2015. May 4, 2015
David Koffman & Stephanie Schwartz, Co-Editors

Canadian Jewish Studies has had an extraordinary academic year, 2014-2015. The journal published two special volumes, one dated 2013, and the second 2014, putting the journal back on track to publish annually, with the volume published in the same calendar, membership and production year, beginning later in 2015. We remain in good financial standing, and have taken steps to increase the reach of the journal, its attractiveness, and its breadth of relevant content.

Volume 21, *Oyfn Veg: Essays in Honour of / Melanges en l'honneur de Gerald Tulchinsky*, 2013 [2014] included 8 essays and 4 response papers by some of Canada's most prolific and important scholars, crossing disciplinary and ideological grounds – a rarity and thereby a fitting testament to the breadth of influence of Professor Tulchinsky. The volume also included a book review section and an introduction by the guest editor of the volume, Franklin Bialystok.

Volume 22, *Stories Told / Histories que l'on raconte: Selected Writings on the Jewish Public Library of Montreal* 2014, was published in partnership with the JPL, and was co-edited by Shannon Hodge, JPL's Director of Archives. It included 5 original essays, one of which was the first-ever photographic essay published in the journal, a foreword by the internationally renowned author Alberto Manguel, and a re-printed but newly published afterword by Irving Layton.

The journal remains on schedule for the publication of Volume 23 in the summer or fall, 2015.

The co-editors are pleased to report the solidification of a regular sub-section of the journal entitled "Archives Matter," in which a consortium of archivists working across Canada's Jewish archives select a theme, curate artifacts, and write short pieces that showcase Canadian Jewish archival holdings and their relevance to the mission of the ACJS, ensuring a geographically balanced presentation of materials.

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We have retained a new layout editor who has made several aesthetic changes to the cover, colours, font and format of our printed (and PDF) pages, all of which we believe is to the benefit of the ACJS.

One of our goals as editors has been to engage graduate students to become more active in our field and in the production of the journal so that we might pass on its institutional knowledge. We are pleased that Elizabeth Moorhouse-Stein, who assisted with on volume 21 will be staying as a production assistant for volume 22.

It should be noted that our url has recently changed to: <http://cjs.journals.yorku.ca> and should be updated in any relevant documents or weblinks.

The editors wish to acknowledge Guest Editors Shannon Hodge and Franklin Bialystok, Book Review Editor Ira Robinson, Archives Matter Editor Janice Rosen, Copyeditor Elizabeth Moorehouse-Stein, Translator Antoine Burgard, administrative support from Cimminee Holt and Georgia Carter, the staff of Hignell Printing, graphic designer Derek Broad, and ongoing support from Emily Lam and Barry Stiefel in the production of *Canadian Jewish Studies*. We would also like to thank Pierre Anctil and Vivian Felsen, who have agreed to spearhead our new translation section.

APPENDIX 4: ARCHIVES REPORT

Association of Canadian Jewish Studies Archives Committee Update, May 1, 2015
By: Dara Solomon, Director of Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre
(Chair of the ACJS Archives Committee)

The Archives Committee came together in 2013 to create a section in the *Canadian Jewish Studies Journal* called "The Archives Matter," and have published two issues so far, highlighting various topics related to the Canadian Jewish Archives community. Members from the Archives Committee will also present *Outside the (Archival) Box: Bringing Canadian Jewish History to the Public* at this year's ACJS Annual conference in Ottawa.

Canadian Jewish Heritage Network

In 2014 the CJHN began using an integrated search engine which seamlessly searches the museum and archival listings and the name-associated family history data available on the site. Users can now make use of narrowing options or facets, a spell checking feature, and browsing lists. Site partners at the Canadian Jewish Congress CC National Archives, the Jewish Public Library Archives, and the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre have been adding videos and scanned documents throughout the year, as well as new teaching aids.

Beth Tzedec Museum

In celebration of Beth Tzedec's 60th anniversary, the Museum partnered with the Ontario Jewish Archives to present the exhibition "Downtown Uptown" did about the Jewish migration up Bathurst Street featuring photos from the OJA's collection.

Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives

CJCCNA is working with the Montreal Holocaust Museum Centre and the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Centre for Holocaust Education (Toronto) in a major effort to digitize Holocaust testimonies that will be archived at the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation.

Jewish Museum & Archives of BC:

An exciting year for the Jewish Museum and Archives of BC including a very successful Indiegogo fundraising campaign to build a new website with an archives database, strategic planning and a re-branding process. The new website will launch summer 2014. They also launched the exhibit: *Fred Schiffer: Lives in Photos* which will also appear online.

Museum of Jewish Montreal

The Museum of Jewish Montreal recently redesigned and launched a new website. And, in 2014-15, they inaugurated their first summer research fellowship with 5 students under the instruction of Dr. Stephanie Schwartz. In June 2014, their walking tours expanded and now include a tour featuring Montreal's Jewish food heritage. In partnership with the Jewish Public Library, they also launched an oral history web app.

Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre

By early May, the OJA's collection will be moved back into its state-of-the-art vault with a dedicated HVAC, new lighting, monitoring system, and moveable compact shelving. New way finding has been designed that also functions as an exhibition with images and text. In partnership with the Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York, York University's Department of History and the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies; the OJA will host a new page on its website for a selection of student papers from York University Professor David Koffman's Canadian Jewish History course. Koffman and the OJA hope to expand this to include papers from other universities across the country.

APPENDIX 5: WEBSITE REPORT

ACJS/ aejc website - Annual report submitted for ACJS/ aejc 2015 annual meeting

Submitted by: Robin Bergart

Date: April 13, 2015

I maintained the ACJS/ aejc website (<http://acjs-aejc.ca>) is hosted on a WordPress blog) since March 2013. With guidance from the website designer, Aida Viziru of Pixel Salad Studio, I updated the website, fixed errors, and liaised with archivists at Canadian Jewish archives across the country to refresh the homepage with historical photos from these archives.

This year I began a discussion with some members of the Board to invest in refreshing the website with more features and a more sophisticated design. I include some of these ideas here (for institutional memory's sake):

- Reorganize the main menu categories
- Add pages for Speakers' Bureau, Teaching Materials
- Move the Twitter feed to the side bar so it assumes the role of the main news feed
- Create a rotating image file to create more interest on the site
- Check site for Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) compliance

Instead of proceeding with these changes myself, I decided to resign so the site could be re-evaluated with "fresh eyes." I drafted a position description (again, supplied here for the sake of institutional memory):

Volunteer Opportunity: Web Content Manager

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies/ Association d'études juives canadiennes ACJS/ aejc invites applicants for the position of Web Content Manager. This is an excellent opportunity to become an active member of a scholarly association and contribute to the promotion and dissemination of research in Canadian Jewish Studies.

Duties

- Manages ACJS/ aejc website content to ensure it is current, usable, and accessible
- Liaises with the Association's Executive team to obtain content, and when considering major changes to the site
- Develops and enhances site structure and layout (in collaboration with web developer, as needed)
- Applies the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards to the website

Qualifications

- Some experience with web content management and writing for the web
- Fluency in English
- Knowledge of HTML (preferred)
- Basic knowledge of French (preferred)
- Knowledge of AODA legislation and web accessibility principles (preferred)

This is a volunteer position. The workload will not exceed 4-5 hours/ month. The initial term of appointment is two years (renewable).

Lilloet Nordlinger assumed the position of Web Content Manager in March 2015.

ACJS Membership Conversation Log

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Members' Comments

Barry Steifel – July 16

Dear ACJS Officers, Executive, and Board of Directors,

This is my first time doing this (my apologies if I haven't gotten protocol entirely correct), but we have a proposal from the Membership Committee, for Changes in Membership Categories and Fee Structure (see attached). This proposal was co-authored by Steve Lapidus and Richard Menkis.

I would like you to give this proposal its due consideration, and thus I am opening a discussion (via email, so be sure to "respond all"). After we've come to a general consensus I would like us to vote on the matter.

Thank you,

Barry Stiefel

ACJS President

P.S. Allie, please keep track of the discussion (saving it, copy/paste is fine). We'll need it as an addendum to the Minutes from the last meeting (May 2015, in Ottawa), to be approved at our next live Executive Meeting, to take place at our conference in Calgary 2016.

David Koffman – July 16

Membership Categories

- May the membership category “affiliate” which is currently limited to historical or genealogical societies be expanded to include synagogues and other adult-education programs?

Yes. It would be great if we could capture more members.

Changes in Fee Structure

OPTION 1

- May we increase the fees for affiliate societies from the current \$60. to \$120. with the added bonus that these groups are entitled to a free guest lecture by a local speaker from ACJS’s proposed speakers’ list?

Yes. We might want to get our speaker’s list together before making the change, however. There’s a chance that we’ll get new “affiliates” but have no local ACJS lecturer available. We won’t be able to afford to pay the cost to send someone.

We should also develop a way to communicate and “sell” this idea to potentially new affiliates.

- Further, may we increase the individual membership for affiliated society members from the current \$25. to \$50?

Not clear what this means: those individuals who are part of a paying affiliate society who also want to join as individuals? Current individual memberships are \$60. So long as the sub-category of affiliate society members is less than \$60 (which \$50 is), I’m okay with raising the rate.

OR

OPTION 2

- Rather than increase fees for affiliate organizations, can we offer a speaker from a prearranged speaker’s list at a fee?

- If so, would @250 CAD be appropriate for guest lecture fees?

This makes sense too, but it forgoes the speakers’ list as a strategy for increasing members. Hence, my vote against it.

Deidre Butler – July 16

Yes to expanding the category of affiliate broadly.

I prefer option 2 with a speakers list. This should be set up like the ajs distinguished lecture series where the lecturer donates their honorarium and receives a tax credit but the receiving institution does not get a tax credit but gets good Jewish studies karma for hiring from the list. In the ajs case one theoretically gets a big name scholar for a lesser honorarium. This should be booked this way. It should be on a first come first serve basis, and the same lecturers should not be tapped too often in the same year. There should be an associated list of lecture topics the lecture is willing to give and all of this info should be on our web site. I would volunteer to be on the list.

Yes I've completely plagiarized the ajs system!

My preference for 2 is that the institutions we are talking about often feel awkward about funding other institutions but do have a speakers budget.

All the best
Deidre

Gary Davis – July 16

Barry,

Nice job. Straight forward choice.

The "free" option is too open-ended and potentially costly. A version of the other could work, if it offers assistance finding volunteer or other speakers, but costs should be arranged between the parties.

Of course book tours or subsidized visits could be promoted too.

- Gary

Jonathan Sarna – July 17

Seems sensible to increase pool of affiliates.

As the author of AJS Distinguished Lecture program (itself borrowed from Org of American Historians), I obviously endorse the concept. Note that under US law we cannot give speakers a tax credit. Also, I cannot say that the program has been as popular as we had hoped, though we now have a separate designated website which we hope will increase its use. Happy to see ACJS borrow the concept. Best -- Jonathan

Ira Robinson – July 17

I second the views of those who side with option 2. The conversation on this has been very stimulating as well.

All the best,

Ira

Lilloet Nördinger McDonnel – July 17

Definitely increase affiliate category to include synagogues and other adult education institutions. I agree with DK, introduce a modest institutional membership fee increase, perhaps as outlined in option 1. Also worth introducing a fee based ACJS speakers list as suggested in option 2. Try it for a year and see what happens? This way we can see how often the services of ACJS members are sought out; how comfortable ACJS speaker are actually charging \$250 every time they are invited to speak at their local shul or community event etc. and how likely organizations going to be to pay these fees.

Lilloet

Franklin Bialystok – July 17

Option 1. Option 2 is seductive but my sense is that institutions won't access the speaker's list and pay the \$250. Let's put the onus on them to remain members with the kicker that they can access the list.

Thanks to Richard and Stephen for working on this.

Frank

Janice Rosen – July 22, 2015

Membership Categories: May the membership category "affiliate" which is currently limited to historical or genealogical societies be expanded to include synagogues and other adult-education programs?

- Yes

Changes in Fee Structure

OPTION 1 May we increase the fees for affiliate societies from the current \$60. to \$120. with the added bonus that these groups are entitled to a free guest lecture by a local speaker from ACJS's proposed speakers' list?

- No - I think this is too great a jump at once and I don't think the speaker option will be an incentive to many organizations.

Further, may we increase the individual membership for affiliated society members from the current \$25. to \$50?

A qualified no - I am okay with a proportional degree of increase for members of an affiliate society, but I am not clear about the definition of those "society" members who can benefit, and I think this should be spelled out in our publicity. Do committee or board

members count? Or do you only mean paying members of an organization that collects dues?

OR OPTION 2

Rather than increase fees for affiliate organizations, can we offer a speaker from a prearranged speaker's list at a fee. If so, would @250 CAD be appropriate for guest lecture fees?

Yes - because I am in favour of any option that does not double my institutional dues. Since we most likely would not use the speaker option, i don't have an opinion about the fee.

Summary

Membership Categories

All voters agreed that the membership category "affiliate" should be expanded to include synagogues and other adult-education organizations.

Changes in Fee Structure

There was a divide between voters over Option 1 and 2. Five voters chose Option 1, two voters chose Option 2 and one voter suggested a combination.

Comments on Option 2

For Option 2, a popular suggestion was copying the AJS Distinguished Lecture model. In that case, the lecturer donates his/her honorarium and receives a tax credit, but the receiving institution does not get a tax credit. (American law does not permit giving speakers a tax credit. ACJS would need to look into the Canadian law regarding giving speakers tax credits.) Speakers would be selected on a first come first serve basis with a system to ensure the same speaker is not selected too many times per year. There would also be a list of lecture topics. It is important to note that according to Jonathan Sarna, the program's author, the AJS Distinguished Lecture program has not been very popular.

Comments on Option 1

Voters liked Option 1 because they worried that the institutions will not access the speaker series' option and pay \$250/speaker. By requiring the institutions to pay the greater fee and choose speakers for free, the onus is on the institution to access the list. However, it was recommended that ACJS create the speakers list before it changes the costing structure.

The concern voters had with Option 1 is that there were too many potential costs associated with having a "free" speakers series. For example, it is possible that someone will want a speaker, but there is no speaker in the area, which will cause ACJS to incur travel costs. There was also the concern that the speakers will not be a big enough incentive to justify the fee increase.

Comments on Combining the Options

The one voter who chose both options recommended a modest institutional membership fee increase, while also introducing a fee based ACJS speakers list.

Item for Clarification

There appears to be some confusion over what is meant by an “individual membership for an affiliate society” as opposed to an “individual member.”