



ACJS
AEJC

ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES
ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDES JUIVES CANADIENNES

Bulletin

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President's Message

Dear members and friends of the ACJS,

This past conference at the University of Calgary was a great success. Most significantly, the winner of the Marcia Koven Award was Lindsay Jackson, of Concordia University (*Bloodless Bris: Intactivism and brit shalom in the Montreal Jewish Community*). Honourable mentions went to Yosef Robinson of Concordia University (*Rewritten Bibles in Modern Canadian Literature*) and Daniel Simeone of McGill University (*In Prison for Debt: Jewish Debtors in the Montreal District Prison Between 1865 and 1900*). Congratulations to the recipients! We also thank Gary Davis and the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum for their very generous support of this award.



Barry L. Stiefel

Our conference in Calgary could not have happened without the incredible assistance of SJ Kerr-Lapsley, the conference chair. We are very grateful for all that she did for this conference, as well as the community day we had with the Calgary Jewish Community Centre. At this event, we also had our second Canadian Jewish Studies Educators' Roundtable, where we discussed, debated and reflected upon how we teach Holocaust education in Canada. Janice Rosen of the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives was also presented with our distinguished Louis Rosenberg Service Award, and we had the book launch of Ira Robinson's *A History of Antisemitism in Canada*. This was a fantastic event, celebrating our 40th annual conference!

Between conferences our organization is maintained by the valuable volunteer work of our members, especially those who serve as officers, committee chairs, and board members (their names are listed on the following page). I am incredibly grateful for all that you do in assisting the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, from our intellectually stimulating journal to managing our website and membership. Planning for our next annual conference is underway, which will be held at Ryerson University in Toronto. SJ Kerr-Lapsley, Janice Rosen,

and Randal Schnoor are co-organizing this event, which is shaping up to be a spectacular one as it will be our 41th annual conference.

The year 2017 will also soon be upon us, and July 1 marks the special sesquicentennial of Canada. Part of ACJS's mission statement is to study and record the role that Jews have played and continue to play in Canada's past and present. While any moment can be used for reflection, anniversaries can serve as a special catalyst. This closing year, 2016, also celebrated ACJS's 40th anniversary. As our organization takes the first steps into its fifth decade, perhaps we — both as individuals as well as a group — could contemplate how to better fulfill our objectives as stewards of Canadian Jewish studies in all its facets.

Our upcoming conference in Toronto will serve as the place where we can share these ideas with one another for the future.

Barry Stiefel

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About Us

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies was founded in 1976 as the Canadian Jewish Historical Society. Its goal is to encourage scholarly research on 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 jason chalmers at chalmers@ualberta.ca.

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

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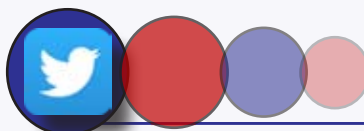
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<https://twitter.com/ACJSaejc>.

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AÉJC sur twitter!

Restez à jour sur les appels à communications, les nouvelles et les événements d'intérêt à propos des études juives canadiennes:
<https://twitter.com/ACJSaejc>.

Suivez-nous et partagez au sein de vos réseaux!

À propos de nous

L'association d'études juives canadiennes fut créée en 1976 sous le titre de Société d'histoire juive canadienne. Son mandat est d'encourager la recherche sur l'histoire, la vie et la culture juive canadienne par une approche pluridisciplinaire.

Il s'agit d'une association nationale dont les quartiers généraux situés à Montréal assurent le contact avec différentes sociétés d'histoires et organisations à l'échelle du pays.

Ce bulletin est dirigé à l'endroit de tout individu ou organisation manifestant un intérêt pour les études juives canadiennes.

Nous vous invitons à nous faire parvenir vos commentaires, des nouvelles d'intérêt ou des comptes-rendus à chalmers@ualberta.ca.

Le site web de l'AÉJC:
www.acjs-aejc.ca.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS / AVIS AUX MEMBRES

All membership renewals to the Association can now be made online using Paypal. Simply go to www.acjs-aejc.ca to renew. Also, if you have a change of address, email or phone number, please let us know by emailing the secretary at acjssecretary@gmail.com.

Le renouvellement de votre abonnement à l'association peut à présent s'opérer en ligne via le service PayPal. À cet effet, veuillez visiter le www.acjs-aejc.ca. Pour signaler un changement d'adresse, d'adresse courriel ou de numéro de téléphone, veuillez contacter le/la secrétaire au acjssecretary@gmail.com.

THANK YOU to the following institutions for their support of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies / L'association d'études juives canadiennes tient à remercier les institutions suivantes pour leur support:

Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies; Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies (York University); Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies (Carleton University); and Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program (University of Ottawa).





Editor's Message / Message du rédacteur en chef

I have heard many people speak of 2016 as an especially challenging year with its many gains and losses. And I have just learnt of another loss as I put the finishing touches on this edition of the Bulletin. Leonard Cohen was a legendary poet and songwriter who sprouted from the Jewish community in Montreal but touched many people beyond it. He explored love and loss, sex and death, and also considered what it means to be Jewish in the modern world. So long, Leonard.

Leonard's poetic exploration of Jewish identity is an important reminder to those of us in the field of Canadian Jewish studies. He reminds us that our study is not just an intellectual affair but one of beauty — the beauty of language, debate, tradition. This message is important as we enter a new and uncertain future and as the visibility of hate crimes increases south of the border. When confronted with especially challenging pasts, presents and futures, the best response may very well be one of beauty and love.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue of the Bulletin, et merci à Simon-Pierre Lacasse pour la traduction. Thank you particularly to Shirley Muhlstock Brodt for all her work on layout and editing.



Pour plusieurs, 2016 fut une année particulièrement difficile, avec ses gains et ses pertes. D'ailleurs, au moment où je finalise la rédaction de ce bulletin, nous apprenons le départ d'une grande personnalité. Leonard Cohen, poète et musicien légendaire, émergea du milieu montréalais pour toucher le monde entier. Dans son œuvre, il explora l'amour et la douleur, le sexe et la mort, et il offrit aussi une réflexion profonde sur le fait d'être juif à l'époque moderne. Salut, Leonard!

L'exploration poétique de l'identité juive que propose Leonard est un important rappel pour nous, acteurs du champ des études juives canadiennes. Il nous rappelle que nos travaux ne sont pas seulement matière intellectuelle, mais aussi de beauté — la beauté de la langue, du débat et de la tradition. Ce message est crucial, au moment où l'avenir semble incertain, et lorsque les crimes haineux se font plus visibles au sud de la frontière. En effet, lorsque nous nous trouvons confrontés à un passé, présent et futur difficiles, la meilleure réponse se compose sûrement de beauté et d'amour.

Merci à tous ceux qui ont contribué à ce numéro du bulletin, and thank you to Simon-Pierre Lacasse for translation. Un merci particulier à Shirley Muhlstock Brodt pour tout son travail de mise en page et d'édition.

Sincerely / Sincèrement,

jason chalmers

Toronto Society Doctors in the History of Toronto's Jewish Community

Irving B. Rosen, M.D.

Toronto Society doctors flourished from the 1900s to the 1950s and looked after the working class members of Jewish Mutual Benefit Societies, which numbered about a hundred. These societies, or lodges, were formed by immigrant groups to provide loans, burial, sickness and unemployment benefits, as well as socialization in the days when the English-illiterate and untrained immigrants were barely tolerated and government social welfare programs were in development. The Jewish Mutual Benefit Societies were distinguished by a medical scheme that emphasized low capitation payments to doctors (e.g. \$1 per member per year) for unlimited service at any time, presumably a carry-over from a European experience.

Eastern European Jews were part of the flood of immigration to North America in the early 1900s and located themselves in "the Ward," which was Toronto's central slum. Its 1905 critical depiction by health officer Dr. Charles Hastings led to its rehabilitation and the emergence of a still modern city hall. The new graduate M.D.s — characteristically of Jewish immigrant origins — overcame university quotas, denial of post-graduate university training as well as subsequent hospital affiliation to emerge inexperienced and lacking confidence in their appeal to the non-Jewish population. They were easy targets for the Jewish Societies executives, who, conscious of their purchasing power, decreed M.D. acceptance only by competition. The neophyte doctors vied for the positions by putting on "katshke" parties to ingratiate themselves with

the membership of Toronto's Society doctors along with the outpatient services of Toronto's General and Sick Children's Hospitals, which provided the medical needs of Toronto's Jewish community. This capitation scheme witnessed critical and demanding patients who looked down on their Society doctors, who were in fact their progeny. Aware of their tenuous status in medical society, Society patients would occasionally demand specialist care. I was personally witness to this as a febrile eight-year-old whose Society doctors' reassurance was ignored by parents but duplicated by an elevated non-Jewish pediatrician whose fee was



The Ward, 1910.

unquestioned by my factory-worker father. Society doctors felt chronically exploited and under-appreciated. Conflicts abounded but all continued reasonably well.

Historians, whether Jewish, medical, or economic, ignored all, but some physicians and relatives bore testimony. Dr. A.I. Willinsky started his practice by horse and buggy and in his *A Doctor's Memoirs* described the low recompense and stated that "[we were] like a first aid man... people would demand a real doctor, a big man, and for all my bulk I was only the

lodge doctor." Dr. David Eisen stated in *A Diary of a Medical Student* that "aside from a low rate of remuneration, there were certain indignities... with the position." Dr. Izzy Tepperman wrote that "one could not make a living from a lodge practice... and when I heard a yenta refer to us as little petty ignorant doctors, I sent in a letter of resignation." Mrs. Jenny Klotz described how her physician father's being awakened by a patient in the middle of the night for a chronic complaint earned him threatened discharge for non-compliance.

By the 1950s, Canadian society became more prosperous, which benefitted Society doctors and patients. The advent of low-cost group and government medical insurance defined the end of Society medicine. The Society doctors had concurrently supported the establishment of Toronto's Mt. Sinai Hospital and its progression as an essential unit of the University of Toronto Medical School. Their respectful behaviour inspired a myriad of young patients to follow them into medicine and even to occupy a current place in the Medical Hall of Fame.

Toronto's Society doctors overcame much adversity and a unique reward system to provide unstinting care that calls for their recognition in Toronto's Jewish and medical history. □

Dr. Irving B. Rosen is a professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto and has been a long-standing member in the Department of General Surgery at the Mt. Sinai Hospital and University Health Network, as well as a consultant emeritus at the Princess Margaret Hospital.

ON THE *Bookshelf* SUR *les rayons*



MATTHEW B. HOFFMAN and HENRY F. SREBRNIK, editors. *A Vanished Ideology: Essays on the Jewish Communist Movement in the English-Speaking World in the Twentieth Century*. Albany: SUNY Press, 2016.

Political science professor Henry Srebnik of the University of Prince Edward Island has co-edited *A Vanished Ideology: Essays on the Jewish Communist Movement in the English-Speaking World in the Twentieth Century* with Matthew Hoffman of Franklin and Marshall College.

Published by the State University of New York Press, it is the first book to examine comprehensively the rise and decline of the Jewish Communist movement in the English-speaking world.

Making extensive use of Yiddish-language books, newspapers, periodicals, pamphlets and other materials, the anthology analyzes the relative political strengths and weaknesses of this largely Yiddish-speaking, immigrant movement and its various pro-Soviet organizations in Australia, Canada, Great Britain, South Africa and the United States.

Though officially part of the larger world Communist movement, it developed its own specific ideology, which was infused as much by Jewish sources

as it was inspired by the Bolshevik Revolution.

The Yiddish-language groups especially were interconnected through international movements such as the World Jewish Cultural Union. Jewish Communists were able to communicate, disseminate information and debate issues such as Jewish nationality and statehood independently of other Communists, and Jewish Communism remained a significant force in Jewish life until the mid-1950s.

Written by scholars in each of the five countries, the articles in *A Vanished Ideology* place the movement within its historical context in the Jewish world of the twentieth century.

ARTICLES

Mayne, Seymour. "Carmella from Tel Aviv" and "Carmella de Tel Aviv." Translated into Spanish by Elena Sánchez Hernández. *Canadaria: Revista Canaria de Estudios Canadienses* 12 (2014-15): 63-70.

Mayne, Seymour. "Three Poems: 'Perfume,' 'Sancho's Plaine,' and 'The Charlatans'." *The Jerusalem Review* 9 (2015): 193-195.

Mayne, Seymour. "Yiddish." *Prism: An Interdisciplinary Journal for Holocaust Educators* 8 (2016): 57. □





The Jewish Museum and Archives of BC has had an incredibly busy 2016, and it looks set to continue into 2017. Public programming has seen the launch of six successful online exhibits, a fascinating historical fashion show to celebrate the launch of 2016's *The Scribe: Focus on the Clothing Industry*, as well as the continued popularity of the Intersections speaker series. The JMABC will also be launching a podcast all about Jewish food in 2017 thanks to the hard work of two Young Canada Works-funded interns. With the recent success of online exhibits featuring handwritten letters, *A Transcontinental Love* and *Letters Home*, the archives has seen some exciting new donations in recent months and looks forward to presenting them to the public in the new year. The archives has recently begun, among other exciting projects, the initial processing of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region, fonds, the archives' single largest collection, with untold research potential.

The JMABC is pleased to announce two new annual prizes. The JMABC Annual Essay Prize will be awarded to new scholarly work that makes substantial use of the BC Jewish

Community Archives. Essays of up to 10,000 words will be considered by an anonymous evaluation committee, and the \$500 award will be given to a deserving undergraduate or graduate student or a faculty member. The second is the Krieger Annual Photography Prize. Details are to be announced soon. Check the JMABC website at jewishmuseum.ca for updates.

Contact the Archives at 604-257-5199 or email archives@jewishmuseum.ca for more details.



Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

Members of the Calgary Jewish community were thrilled to be part the 40th anniversary celebration at the May 29 Community Day during the 2016 ACJS Conference. Local participants were impressed by the breadth of information presented by



Calgary Hebrew School Kindergarten Band, c. 1947 JHSSA #1134.

the visiting scholars and were proud to share their local history, especially the preserved Montefiore Institute in Heritage Park.

The wider community was made

aware of the conference by way of a photo exhibit featuring local Jewish history that was mounted at the JCC. Visiting scholars had ample opportunity to hear directly from local residents about their family roots in the area. This personal contact has hopefully created a greater appreciation for the work of historians and archivists. It was a special privilege to participate in the presentation of the Louis Rosenberg Award to archivist Janice Rosen.

Once again, JHSSA was a partner in Historic Calgary Week this summer. This year involved our sponsorship of the week's closing concert on Heritage Day, featuring Paul Finkleman, local musician and a JHSSA director, who performed his own musical accounts of Calgary history. His repertoire includes material about Jewish personalities.

This year has been declared Calgary's Year of Music, so our AGM program on October 31 featured "Music, Music, Music: A Journey Back Through the Jewish Music Scene in Calgary." It highlighted Jewish performers, impresarios and musical programs both in the wider community and within Jewish organizations. The evening also included live performances of four Yiddish and Hebrew melodies from events in the 1930s.

JHSSA has been fortunate to have been awarded a number of grants this year. Through the Shapiro Community Enrichment Grant (matching funds), JHSSA was able to invest in new archival storage equipment to protect historical material. Funding from Library and Archives Canada Documentary Heritage Communities Program is going towards creating detailed descriptions of our holdings. A grant from the Veterans Affairs Community Engagement Partnership Fund is enabling continued work on the JHSSA Southern Alberta Jewish

Veterans of the World Wars database.

This year's Jay Joffe Memorial Program will be a screening of the film "Aida's Secrets" at the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival. As the film deals with a man's search for the truth about his family history after the Holocaust, local genealogist and JHSSA director Ken Drabinsky will be at the screening with advice about and resources for gathering family information. Our winter program will also focus on genealogy, with a presentation about one Calgarian's exhaustive search for the detailed history of his family's Holocaust experience.



Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada

Database now accessible online:

We have loaded our searchable database onto the website at jhcwc.org with listings of over 50,000 documents, 12,000 photographs, and 1,500 artifacts as well as tens of thousands of newspaper articles going back to earliest days of the Jewish press in Winnipeg. The database has been compiled for almost fifty years by volunteers. Click on "archives," then "database search," enter your terms, and remember to scroll down past the cute kid photo to use it.

Archives: The archives of the JHCWC have suffered from intermittent professional supervision. The Archives Committee is leading a drive to correct past deficiencies and professionalize the operations, and recent grants have allowed us to catalogue and make accessible newly

acquired collections, such as the Adele Wiseman papers and papers on Jews of the Dauphin, Manitoba, area. The entire collection continues to be utilized by professional and family historians.

Genealogy: The Genealogical Institute continues to update and expand its comprehensive photographic collection of Jewish tombstones in Manitoba and adjacent areas. The collection now includes Jewish burials outside specifically Jewish cemeteries.

Switzer-Cooperstock Prize

Lecture on Western Canadian Jewish History: The winner of this biennial prize, Professor Esyllt Jones of the University of Manitoba, presented her paper on "Mindel Cherniack Sheps and the Founding of Medicare in Canada." Dr. Sheps attended the University of Manitoba Medical School during the period of discriminatory quotas, practiced and won election to the School Board, and went to Saskatchewan in 1944 to work on the new legislation. The essay developed from Professor Jones' work on alternative, more radical models of medicare that were advanced before Saskatchewan chose the present system.

Century of Manitoba Jewish Physicians:

A committee of Jewish doctors chaired by Dr. Arnold Naimark, former Dean of the Medical School and President of the University of Manitoba, and Dr. Nathan Wiseman is working with the Jewish Heritage Centre. A first "Vignette Evening" in June presented papers on Jewish oncologists and the Mall Medical Clinic, a multi-specialty clinic formed by doctors returning from military service in World War II. The archivist of the University of Manitoba Medical School Library also demonstrated his website designed to crowd-source information.

Visitors are invited to add information about the doctors listed at http://medheritage.lib.umanitoba.ca/?page_id=1842.

A second vignette evening was held on November 10 with papers on the medical school's past discriminatory quota, on polio and personal care and on Jewish immigrant doctors. A website update was also presented.

The goal is to publish a book.

Synagogues: The synagogues exhibit that opened in March will remain open until the end of 2016. Programs related to it included an evening of cantorial singing and personal reflections, a history of the Chesed Shel Emes as a synagogue and community funeral chapel, and a discussion of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, concentrating on his years in Winnipeg (upcoming).

Holocaust Education: Researchers in Winnipeg will soon be able to access the 54,000 survivor testimonies collected by the Shoah Foundation in conjunction with the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre. This will be the sole access point between Toronto and Calgary.

Belle Jarniewski, chair of the Freeman Family Holocaust Education Centre, serves on the Academic Working Group of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, which, among other issues, is examining the endangerment of Holocaust memory through actions such as the proposed law in Poland to amend the statutes of the Institute of National Remembrance. As a member of the Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial, she helped draft the definitions that were adopted by the May 2016 plenary conference.

Continued on page 8



The Untold Past and Present of Jewish Farming in Ontario

The Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA), Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre, and Shoresh co-sponsored the exhibition "The Corners of our Fields: Jewish Farming in Ontario" from October 6 to 30. The exhibition, with photographs and documents, explored the untold story of Jewish farming in Ontario, linking the history of Jewish farming with contemporary rural and urban agricultural practice through the work of Shoresh and other farmers outside Toronto.



Mendel and Alex Silbert on their farm, ca. 1919. Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre, item 4975.

On view were photographs of family farms and various Jewish agriculture training schools stretching from northern Ontario to the Niagara Peninsula, accompanied by stories of individuals and groups that thwarted Canada's strict immigration policies



Youth on Hechalutz farm, 1946. Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre, item 233.

between the two world wars to help family and friends escape Europe by convincing authorities that they were farmers. Farming was both an ideal and a source of livelihood for many Ontario Jews and continues to be a vocation for families and environmental groups today, such as Shoresh.

Shoresh is a grassroots Jewish environmental organization working to inspire our community to act as responsible stewards of the earth by nurturing a sense of awe and connection through Jewish experiential education and action (<http://shoresh.ca/>).

For over forty years the OJA has been collecting, preserving and making accessible the material of Ontario's vibrant Jewish community. Our collection is searchable online at www.ontariojewisharchives.org.



10th Anniversary of the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University

Established in 2006, the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies (ZC) promotes faculty, student and affiliate research on topics related to Jewish history, culture and texts and the dissemination of research outcomes to the community. The ZC hosts an array of lectures, courses and workshops. The Centre has flourished under the directorship of Professor Deidre Butler, joined this year by scholar and community leader Dr. Susan Landau-Chark as Associate Director.

Currently celebrating its 10th anniversary, the ZC (<https://carleton.ca/jewishstudies/>) has grown into a flourishing centre for Jewish studies

research, teaching and community outreach. As Butler states, "The ZC has thrived because, from its inception, we have seen each challenge as an opportunity to broaden the community of learners."



Dr. Deidre Butler, Director, Zelikovitz Centre (left) and Dr. Susan Landau-Chark, Associate Director.

Under the ZC umbrella is the Developing Future Leaders (DFL) program. Initially conceived and supported by Minto Group Executive Chair Roger Greenberg as a five-year pilot project, the DFL provides leadership training and places students in internships with Jewish community partners. This program is unique in North America in that it is university-based and produces research on leadership training and skills development. Its high-level internships are made available to both Jewish and non-Jewish communal organizations, and its strong professional development component is provided through the mandatory training sessions held year-round.

A recent addition to the ZC is the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES).



Headed by Director Mina Cohn, CHES is a new driving force in Holocaust education, now celebrating its first anniversary. Its success was immediate, with community members rallying to raise money for a series of videos of local

Holocaust survivors' testimonies. More information can be found on the Centre's [website](http://www.carleton.ca/ches/).

November was Holocaust Education Month, and CHES/ZC hosted a variety of events (<http://carleton.ca/ches/events/>), such as the event launch with keynote speaker Dr. Michael Marrus, the second-generation symposium featuring Dr. Diane F. Afoumado (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum), and in collaboration with the Japanese Embassy, actor Mr. Shingo Misawa performed his one act play, "Decision: Visa of Life about Chiune 'Sempo' Sugihara," the Japanese diplomat who issued 6,000 transit visas while serving as Vice-Consul of Japan in Kaunas, Lithuania, at the outbreak of World War II.



A law and religion colloquium is planned for February 2017. On March 30, 2017, Ruth Gavison, Haim H. Cohn Professor of Human Rights Law at Hebrew University Law Faculty, will be speaking on "Religion and Public Life in Israel." Plans are in progress for a research colloquium in autumn 2017 on Jewish art and material culture in preparation for

a conference on the same topic in 2018 (if interested, please contact us). Looking ahead to 2018, the Zelikovitz Centre will be offering its second Israel Travel Course (<https://carleton.ca/jewishstudies/israel-travel-course/>).

Join us on our virtual venture: "Like" us on Facebook at [facebook.com/ZelikovitzCentre](https://www.facebook.com/ZelikovitzCentre) and follow us on Twitter @ZelikovitzC, or send an email to jewish.studies@carleton.ca.



Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program, University of Ottawa: New Yiddish Initiatives

The Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program is pleased to present two new initiatives in the area of Yiddish in the 2016-2017 academic year:

1. Yiddish in the New Millennium: A Symposium on New Yiddish Language and Culture November 5-6, 2016

Yiddish is far from "dead" or "dying," with many exciting new developments in the Yiddish language and culture since the beginning of the new millennium.

In November, the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program organized an international symposium to bring together scholars to present their research on areas of innovation in Yiddish since the year 2000. Saturday evening opened with a performance-talk on Yiddish and Judeo-Spanish folksongs by Dr. Judith Cohen of York University, held in conjunction with the Jacob M. Lowy Collection at Library and Archives Canada.

Sunday featured a full day of lectures about Yiddish language and culture, including researchers from Canada, the U.S., Europe, Japan, and Israel presenting sessions on Yiddish-language learning, Yiddish in the Haredi world, Yiddish digitization, contemporary Yiddish literature and film, translation, and new Yiddish performance. The events attracted over one hundred people and will produce an edited volume.

2. Ottawa Yiddish Summer Institute May 1-June 16, 2017

Learn Yiddish in six weeks for six university credits. After a hiatus of several years, the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program is offering its intensive beginner Yiddish program (Introduction to Yiddish Language and Culture, YDD 1901 and 1902) this coming May and June.

The intensive course runs from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. every day from Mondays to Thursdays plus a 90-minute culture class on Monday and Thursday afternoons; students can expect two to three hours of homework per day as well as online assignments on the weekends. The course integrates language learning with singing, conversation and games. By the end of the course, students will be able to hold a basic conversation like a native speaker, write about a variety of topics, read a Yiddish newspaper, be familiar with many aspects of Yiddish culture from Eastern Europe through present-day Canada, including music, literature, theatre and film. The program is open to university students across Canada and abroad as well as to non-university students.

For more information, including application materials, please visit www.YiddishOttawa.com or contact the course instructor, Prof. Rebecca Margolis rmargoli@uOttawa.ca. □



Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

Association d'études juives canadiennes

2017 ACJS Conference Call for Papers

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies will be holding its 41th annual conference from Sunday, May 28, through Tuesday, May 30, 2017, at Ryerson University in Toronto, as part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The conference provides a platform for original scholarly research on Canadian Jewish history, life and culture.

Individuals are invited to submit proposals for learned paper presentations, 20 minutes in length. All submissions must be in Times New Roman and must include:

- (1) a double-spaced, 400-word abstract formulated to clearly and concisely state the main argument of the scholarly paper and indicate how it will contribute to existing scholarship in the field of Canadian Jewish studies, and
- (2) a single-spaced bibliography of relevant sources.

Given that proposals undergo blind review, **please do not include any personal, identifiable information in your proposal.**

Please submit your proposal by email, as a .doc or .rtf attachment, to the ACJS Conference and Programs Co-Chair, Janice Rosen (jrosen@cjarchives.ca). **In the body of the email, please indicate your name, affiliation, address, telephone number and email address.**

Because the holiday of Shavuot starts immediately after the conference, we will try to arrange a Sunday or Monday presentation date for those who need to leave the conference early in order to travel home for the holiday. If this applies to you, please indicate so in the email that accompanies your proposal submission.

Paper proposals are due by **January 9, 2017**. After the process of anonymous peer review, presenters will be contacted by **February 17, 2017**.

All presenters must be paid 2017 members of the ACJS at the time that proposals are submitted. Proposals from individuals who are not 2017 members of the ACJS will not be reviewed. Membership information for the ACJS can be found on our website (<http://acjs-aejc.ca/membership>).

As the ACJS conference is part of a larger, national conference body – Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences – ACJS conference participants must register in advance by paying the required fees for both Congress registration and ACJS conference registration. **Early-bird registration rates are available until March 31.** Participants will receive registration details from the Conference and Programs Chairs and are also invited to consult the Congress website (<http://congress2017.ca/register>) for more information.

Partial financial support to defray travel and accommodations costs is available for presenters who live more than 100 km from Toronto and have been members of the ACJS for at least one full calendar year prior to January 2017 (i.e. presenters must be in good standing for both 2016 and 2017 to be eligible for support). University students are exempt from the 2016 membership requirement and are also eligible for additional top-up support. In all cases, because the ACJS support funds are limited, all presenters, including students, are expected to apply first to their host institutions for travel and accommodations support.

Applications for financial support, which will be sent to eligible presenters along with the notice of acceptance of their paper proposal, are due **March 6, with results communicated by March 27.**

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



Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

Association d'études juives canadiennes

Conférence de l'AJC 2017 Appel à communications

L'Association des études juives canadiennes tiendra sa 41^e conférence annuelle à l'Université Ryerson à Toronto, à partir du dimanche 28 mai jusqu'au mardi 30 mai 2017, dans le cadre du Congrès des sciences humaines. La conférence offre une plateforme pour disséminer la recherche savante originale ayant pour objets l'histoire, la vie et la culture juives canadiennes.

Vous êtes invités à soumettre des propositions de communications pour des présentations individuelles de vingt minutes. Toutes les propositions doivent être rédigées en police Times New Roman et devraient inclure :

- (1) un résumé de 400 mots, à interlignes doubles, rédigé dans un style clair, comprenant une problématique explicite ainsi qu'une explication justifiant la contribution de la recherche au champ des études juives canadiennes, et
- (2) une bibliographie à interlignes simples présentant des sources pertinentes. Puisque les propositions sont soumises à une procédure d'évaluation à l'aveugle, **nous vous prions de ne pas y inclure d'informations personnelles nous permettant de vous identifier.**

Veuillez soumettre votre proposition par courriel, joint en fichier .doc ou .rtf, à la co-présidente du programme de la conférence de l'AJC, Janice Rosen (jrosen@cjarchives.ca). **Dans votre courriel, veuillez indiquer votre nom, affiliation, adresse, numéro de téléphone et adresse courriel.**

Puisque Shavuot débute immédiatement après la conférence, nous tenterons d'organiser la présentation soit le dimanche ou le lundi afin d'allouer suffisamment de temps à ceux qui doivent entreprendre le chemin du retour pour les célébrations. Si cela vous concerne, veuillez nous en faire part dans le courriel qui accompagnera votre proposition de communication.

La date butoir pour nous faire parvenir une proposition est le **9 janvier 2017**. Suivant la procédure d'évaluation anonyme par des pairs, les candidats-es retenus-es seront contactés-es au plus tard le **17 février 2017**.

Tous les candidats-es doivent être membres de l'AJC au

moment de la soumission de leurs propositions, faute de quoi celles-ci ne seront pas évaluées. Des informations sur les modalités d'inscription à l'AJC sont disponibles en anglais sur notre page web (<http://acjs-aejc.ca/membership>).

La conférence annuelle de l'AJC est présentée dans le cadre plus large d'une conférence à l'échelle nationale — le Congrès des sciences humaines — à laquelle les participants-es doivent s'inscrire en payant à la fois les frais d'inscription du Congrès et de la conférence de l'AJC. **Des tarifs d'inscription préférentiels sont offerts jusqu'au 31 mars.** Les candidats-es retenus-es seront informés-es des procédures précises d'inscription par les co-présidentes du programme de la conférence. En attendant, nous invitons les candidats-es à visiter la page web du Congrès (<http://congres2017.ca/inscriptions>) pour plus d'informations.

Un appui financier est disponible pour palier à une partie des coûts de transport et d'hébergement des participants-es qui habitent à plus de 100 kilomètres de Toronto, et qui sont membres de l'AJC depuis au moins une année complète précédant janvier 2017. En d'autres mots, les participants-es doivent être membres en règle de l'association pour les années 2016 et 2017 afin d'être admissibles à l'appui financier. Cependant, les étudiants-es universitaires n'ont pas à avoir été membres pour l'année 2016 et sont éligibles à un appui financier supplémentaire. Dans tous les cas, puisque les fonds de l'AJC sont limités, tous les présentatrices et présentateurs — incluant les étudiants-es — sont tenus-es de souscrire d'abord aux fonds de leurs institutions respectives en vue de contribuer aux frais de transport et d'hébergement. Les demandes d'appui financier, qui seront acheminées aux candidats-es éligibles dont les propositions auront été retenues, doivent nous être renvoyées **au plus tard le 6 mars et feront l'objet d'une réponse au plus tard le 27 mars.**

La meilleure présentation faite par un-e étudiant-e sera soulignée par la remise du prix Marcia Koven, qui est accompagné d'une récompense en argent. La ou le lauréat-e sera sélectionné-e en fonction de la qualité de sa recherche et de sa contribution au champ des études juives canadiennes.

APPEL À COMMUNICATIONS

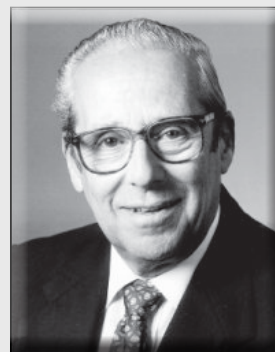


Le prochain numéro de la Revue internationale d'études québécoise *Globe* (vol. 18, no. 1), qui sera publié en novembre 2016, présentera un aperçu des nouvelles recherches menées en français au sujet de l'antisémitisme au Québec. Intitulé 'Nouveaux regards sur le phénomène de l'antisémitisme dans l'histoire du Québec,' le numéro offre des articles au sujet du journal *Le Devoir*, de la grève de l'hôpital Notre-Dame en 1934 et des notions véhiculées par l'Église catholique avant le concile du Vatican. On y trouve aussi des études portant sur Adrien Arcand, les stratégies adoptées par le Congrès juif canadien à Montréal et l'attitude de René Lévesque. Plusieurs des auteurs de ce numéro sont de jeunes chercheurs qui avancent des interprétations inédites d'un phénomène jusqu'ici peu exploré à partir des sources de langue française. (www.revueglobe.ca) □

Victor Goldbloom ז"ל

VICTOR GOLDBLOOM, C.C., O.Q., M.D., LL.D., passed away February 15, 2016, in Montreal at the age of 92.

Victor practiced pediatrics after graduating from McGill University's medical school. He was elected to the National Assembly of Quebec in 1966 and held several ministerial positions under the Liberal government. Victor was the first



member of the Jewish community to serve in the Quebec cabinet.

From 1980 to 1987, he was president and CEO of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. He was a member of the ACJS for the past decade.

Victor was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada and an Officer of l'Ordre national du Québec, and he received honorary degrees from McGill University, Concordia University, the University of Toronto, the University of Ottawa and l'Université Sainte Anne.

In 2015, he published his memoirs, entitled *Building Bridges*. Fluent in French, he also wrote the French version, entitled *Les Ponts du dialogue*.

The Gazette's Marian Scott wrote of him in an obituary: "A pediatrician and politician, a Jew who was honoured by the Catholic Church for his efforts to build interfaith dialogue and an anglophone with deep roots in francophone Quebec, Goldbloom was the quintessential Montrealer, Quebecer and Canadian."

May his memory be a blessing. □



Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies

The Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies announces its program of events for the 2016/2017 Academic Year:

September 12, 2016: Professor Deborah Dash Moore (University of Michigan) spoke on "The Urban Origins of American Judaism" in the series of lectures on "Jews in Urban Environments," supported by a grant from the American Academy for Jewish Research in association with the Institute, l'Université de Montréal, Microprogramme en études juives and the Jewish Studies Program at SUNY Plattsburgh.

November 7, 2016: Lancement de deux publications appuyées par la Chaire de l'Université Concordia en études juives canadiennes :

- Globe : Revue internationale d'études québécoises. Numéro spéciale sur « Nouveaux regards sur le phénomène d'antisémitisme dans l'histoire du Québec »
- Les révolutions de Leonard Cohen. Sous la direction de Chantal Ringuet et Gérard Rabinovitch, Presse de l'Université du Québec

November 9, 2016: Professor Lee Shai Weissbach (University of Louisville) spoke on "Jews in Smaller Urban Places: The History of America's Small-Town Jewish Communities" at SUNY Plattsburgh in the series on "Jews in Urban Environments."

November 10, 2016: Professor Weissbach spoke at the Museum of Jewish Montreal on "Synagogues in the Urban Environment: What These Buildings Tell Us" in the series on "Jews in Urban Environments."

November 21, 2016: Professor Stephen Ross (Concordia University) spoke on "Mikhl Likht's Modernist Yiddish Poetry, the Lower East Side, and Others."

November 29, 2016: The Institute, in partnership with the Azrieli Foundation and the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, held a symposium entitled "**1944: A Moment in the Life of a Community**" at Concordia in honour of the publication of the English translation of Rabbi Pinchas Hirschprung's memoir of his escape from the Nazis in 1944. Rabbi Hirschprung's memoir evokes a moment of transition when the magnitude of the Holocaust was becoming known, though still shrouded in the fog of war, and when the North American Jewish community was beginning to understand the challenges confronting it. The symposium examined three major aspects of the life of the North American Jewish community in 1944: Orthodox Judaism, Yiddish culture and press, and refugees from Nazi persecution.

March 7, 2017: Professor David Koffman, (York University) will present a public lecture on "Canadian Jews' Interest in First Nations," supported by the Marvin A. Drimer Foundation.

March 20, 2017: Professor Allan Nadler (Drew University) will present a public lecture on "An Appraisal of the Work of Rabbi Nachum L. Rabinovitch," supported by the Marvin A. Drimer Foundation.

Contact the Institute:

Email: cjs@alcor.concordia.ca

Telephone: 514-848-2424, x2074

Website: <http://www.concordia.ca/artsci/research/jewish-studies.html>

2016 ACJS/AEJC Annual General Meeting

May 30, 2016

University of Calgary
MacEwan Hall, Room 234

Present: Adara Goldberg, Bernie Katz, SJ Kerr-Lapsley, Richard Menkis, Ira Robinson, Janice Rosen, Irving Rosen, Daniel Simeone, Barry Stiefel (via Skype), Peter Usher

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. MT.

President's Report: Barry Stiefel

Barry welcomed everyone to the 40th annual conference and thanked SJ for making it possible. He discussed his work over the last year, which centered around planting seeds that would benefit the ACJS in the long term. This included the educators' roundtable, which is coordinated by Barry, Ira Robinson and other colleagues and serves as a forum for improving the quantity and quality of Canadian Jewish studies subjects taught at the primary, secondary and university levels, as well as strengthening the field and connecting educators across the country. This year, the second annual roundtable will focus on Holocaust education in Canada and will be moderated by our Academic Committee Chair, Ira Robinson. Barry also noted that he had been working with Frank Bialystok to manage our finances, and he was glad to report that our financial situation should stabilize in the long term.

Treasurer's Report: Barry Stiefel, on behalf of Emily Lam

Barry presented Emily's report, which is available upon request. The motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and the motion to reappoint Silver & Goren were postponed to the afternoon, once there was a quorum.

Bulletin Report: Barry Stiefel, on behalf of Jason Chalmers and Rebecca Margolis

Rebecca noted that the Bulletin appeared with some new features, including an increase in the amount of French content, and thanked Simon-Pierre Lacasse for doing the translating. She also extended thanks to Shirley Muhlstock Brodt for her help with the layout, design and editing and noted that Jason Chalmers had assumed editorship for the spring edition.

Canadian Jewish Studies 2019 Special Issue

Janice brought up the centenary of the Canadian Jewish Congress, and while it officially no longer exists, Janice and the Chair of the Archives Committee wanted to propose that the work of CJC and its influence be approached by ACJS scholars for a special theme issue of the Journal in 2019. Richard, Bernie, Peter, SJ and Ira agreed that it was not too early to start planning. Bernie noted that the demise story in particular should be discussed, and he referenced Frank Bialystok's op-ed in the *Canadian Jewish News*. Richard suggested that the Conference and Programs Chair think about having a session on CJC in 2017 (Toronto) or 2018 (Regina).

Journal Report: Barry Stiefel, on behalf of Stephanie Schwartz (Co-Editor), David Koffman (Co-Editor) and Elizabeth Moorhouse-Stein (Assistant Editor)

The 23rd volume of the journal was published on schedule in November 2015 and included four essays, one letter to the editor, eight book reviews and the second installment of Archives

Matter, featuring "Small Communities," with contributions from archivists in Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Saint John. The Volume 24 special edition revisiting *None Is Too Many* will be co-edited by Rebecca Margolis and Antoine Burgard and is shaping up to be a substantial issue, with an increased number of French articles and a special section in Archives Matter, edited by Janice Rosen. Volume 25 is an open call, but in honour of Canada's 150th, the editors are suggesting a Canadian Confederation and/or sesquicentennial theme, for which they have already received interest from several authors.

David has organized an event co-sponsored by the ACJS called "Trudeau: Good for the Jews?" that will be taking place on May 15, 2016, at York University. The texts and debates will be published in either Volume 25 or 26 and posted to the ACJS website.

Stephanie, David, and Rebecca have been mentoring three student members of the ACJS, training them in a variety of Journal and ACJS positions. Antoine Burgard is co-editing CJS Volume 24, Meghan Leane Cavanaugh is training as social media coordinator, and Elizabeth Moorhouse-Stein is assistant editor, which position includes communicating with authors, uploading the online version of the Journal and, for the forthcoming volume, coordinating with the Journal printers, managing the Editor email account and rejuvenating the Journal website. Under Elizabeth's leadership, missing website information, such as the Book Review section, has been added to the website, and dated and redundant

content has been removed. CJS has begun adding multimedia content to the online version of the Journal and now invites authors to include multimedia content with their submissions. The first CJS multimedia content appears in the latest volume, as a series of audio clips accompanying Zelda Abramson's article "From Rags to Comfort: Women Holocaust Survivors Rebuilding Lives in Montreal 1947-1958." The CJS editors were also in the process of redesigning the home page, with the help of the Open Journal System staff at York, as well as Shannon Hodge at JPL, Agi Romer-Segal at the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta in Calgary and Ava Block Super at the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada in Winnipeg, who are donating images from their collections.

Given that David is at York University for the long term and Stephanie is completing her post-doctorate in Montreal, the question of long-term infrastructure needs to be addressed, and the editors were contemplating relocating all Journal-related activities from Concordia to York. This would mean changing the Journal's mailing address and potentially finding storage for the journals at York. One of the primary reasons this was under consideration was that Hignell Printing gets confused when asked to send proofs to an address that is different from what they have on record, and tracking down the proofs sometimes causes delays.

The Journal has clarified its Book Review policy, which is now available on the website. The Journal will accept reviews of 1500-2000 words on scholarly works that address, analyze, compare or substantially include the Canadian Jewish experience in any discipline or field. Authors and publishers who wish to have their book reviewed should write to Book Review Editor Michael Rom.

The budget remained roughly the same as 2014-2015. The major change

was that the Journal had invested in paying students to assume journalistic roles, which funding comes from David's grant from York for Journal activities. The editors were open to returning to a discussion or motion to have a digital version only – to save money – but they were not necessarily advocating it.

They wished to thank Volume 24 Guest Editors Rebecca Margolis and Antoine Burgard, Book Review Editor Michael Rom, Archives Matter Editor Janice Rosen, copy editor Elizabeth Moorhouse-Stein, administrative support from Cimminee Holt, Georgia Carter and Ira Robinson at the Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies, the staff of Hignell Printing, graphic designer Derek Broad, and ongoing support from Emily Lam, Allie Cuperfain and Barry Stiefel in the production of *Canadian Jewish Studies*.

Membership Report: Barry Stiefel, on behalf of Steven Lapidus

Steven reported 59 paid members in February 2016, which increased to 100 paid members in May 2016.

Conference Report:

SJ Kerr-Lapsley

SJ reflected on this year's Community Day, which had a fantastic turnout of 52 people (40 community members and 12 ACJS/CSJS) during the day, and 34 people (21 community members and 13 ACJS/CSJS) at the 40th anniversary banquet. It was a special experience for her to plan a Community Day in her own community, and it was made even more special because it was a quadruple simcha: the 25th anniversary of the JHSSA, the 30th anniversary of Janice working for the Canadian Jewish Archives/CJCC Archives, the 40th anniversary of the ACJS, and the 100th anniversary of the Little Synagogue on the Prairie.

The two Community Day panels, one on Southern Alberta Jewish history and

the other on the Little Synagogue on the Prairie project, were very interesting and well received, the book launch went well, and all those who went on the tour at Heritage Park seemed to enjoy themselves. At least a dozen community members ensured that the ACJS had their addresses so that they would receive their introductory copy of *Canadian Jewish Studies*. At lunch there were twelve senior speakers who grew up in rural areas or small towns in Western Canada and sat at each lunch table chatting about what it was like to grow up in a small Jewish community in the early 20th century. The event went better than had been expected.

The JHSSA put together two great exhibits that were on display throughout Community Day – a photo exhibit of communities in Southern Alberta in the early 20th century and a time line of Jewish life in Southern Alberta from the 1880s until Alberta's centennial in 2005 – and participants had the opportunity to examine both exhibits during the day and during the appetizer and wine reception that preceded the banquet.

The response from both community members and ACJS/CSJS members had been really positive, and SJ was pleased with how everything went. She could not have done any of it without the help of Katie Baker, Roberta Kerr, and Agi Romer-Segal at JHSSA, who were the feet on the ground in Calgary, working tirelessly to iron out details, process registration, coordinate set-up and help to ensure that everything went smoothly. It also would not have been possible without this year's sponsors and partners: the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University, the JHSSA, the Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University, Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program at the University of Ottawa, the ACJS,

Continued on page 16

Wilfred Laurier University Press, Heritage Park, Calgary JCC, the Calgary Jewish Free Press, and the Calgary Jewish Federation. The Calgary Jewish community was enthusiastic in the lead-up to Community Day and during the day itself, which helped make the event as special as it was.

SJ secured nearly \$4,000 of in-kind donations and funding for the conference this year, which enabled us to reduce the overall cost of Community Day tickets and provide subsidies for our ACJS participants and partial subsidies for our CSJS participants. She also started the Shabbat billeting initiative, where local community members hosted ACJS and CSJS members over the Shabbat preceding the conference. This year, five ACJS/CSJS members and family members took part, and she hoped to continue and expand this initiative in future years.

SJ thanked Rebecca Margolis, Donna Lelievre (Congress), Richard Menkis, Stephanie Schwartz, Ira Robinson and Daniel Maoz for their guidance throughout the planning of the conference and to our Intercultural Liaison Chair, Simon-Pierre Lacasse, for translating to French our Call for Papers and our conference program. Many thanks as well to our reviewers for taking the time to review this year's proposals, which resulted in some very interesting panels. Thank you to Ira Robinson, Daniel Maoz, Barry Stiefel and Howard Gontovnik for coordinating the second annual Educators' Roundtable, to Sandra Lipton for coordinating a tour of the Glenbow Museum archives and to Peter Usher for initiating and coordinating the Canadian Jews and World War II program, which included a keynote speech by Dr. David Bercuson, a panel discussion, and an extended brown-bag lunch discussion.

SJ assumed the position of Programs and Conference Chair for this year when it looked like the conference in Calgary

might not go forward, and she was glad that she did. Though it was challenging at times to balance planning her first academic conference while finishing her master's thesis, acting as a teaching assistant and training as a museum fellow, it all turned out well, and she was glad that this year's conference went forward. She thanked the ACJS Executive and Board of Directors for entrusting her with this job. She looked forward to coordinating with Janice Rosen and Randal Schnoor next year, when Congress will be at Ryerson.

Peter, Richard, Janice, Ira and Bernie were impressed with this year's Community Day and how well received it was. Bernie noted that this year's matched Vancouver's in terms of volume and quality. A discussion of next year's Community Day centered around possibilities for partnership, including OJA, Kulanu and the Neuberger, and Barry suggested partnering with PJ Library to do a family event.

Secretary Report: Barry Stiefel, on behalf of Allie Cuperfain

Allie reported that the transition from the previous secretary, Janice Rosen, went smoothly and that Janice was a valuable resource for information about the ACJS, methods and templates. The membership database has been moved online to Google Drive, which will allow Board members to access the database remotely. Throughout the year Allie kept the database updated with membership renewals sent from Emily Lam (online payments) and Georgia Carter and Cimminnee Holt (mailed renewals). This year marked the transition from a secretary who was in the same city as the ACJS office. Having a secretary who lived outside Montreal was only possible because of Georgia's and Cimminnee's support. It would not have been possible to hold the position in Toronto without their assistance in organizing membership payments, responding to email inquiries,

and mailing Bulletins and Journals.

This year Allie also oversaw the online vote for a change to the ACJS membership structure, which appeared in the minutes of last year's Board meeting. Though she did not know who would be assuming her position, she would ensure a smooth transition. She thanked the Board and ACJS for her year of service and wished them success in the future.

Nominations Report: Barry Stiefel, on behalf of Hernan Tesler-Mabe

Hernan was happy to serve as Nominations Chair this year and looked forward to continuing in this role. Over the last year he was involved in three main activities. He determined the winners of the 2015 Marcia Koven Award for Best Student Paper, ensuring that the results were posted to the website and that the winners had sent their thanks and papers to Gary Davis. He thanked Lillooet Nordlinger for uploading the award winners.

He oversaw the Louis Rosenberg Award, which included the call for nominations, organizing incoming nominations material, organizing a committee to oversee the vote and announcing the winner. Hernan congratulated the 2016 Louis Rosenberg Award winner, Janice Rosen, the 2015 Marcia Koven Award winners, Antoine Burgard (UQÀM/Université Lumière Lyon 2) and Meghan Cavanaugh (University of Ottawa), and the Honourable Mention to Yosef Robinson (Concordia University).

He was also in charge of ensuring that the Executive and Chair positions were filled for the upcoming year. He thanked both those who were remaining in their roles for their continued service to the ACJS, and those who would not be continuing for all of the work that they did, and he looked forward to working with the new Executive and Chairs.

There were four presenters who were eligible for the 2016 Marcia Koven Award

for Best Student Paper: Yosef Robinson, Scarlett Andes, Lindsey Jackson Hall and Daniel Simeone.

Barry and Hernan proposed that those present would be the informal committee determining the recipient, and everyone at the Annual General Meeting agreed. (This was later limited to the conference participants who were present for all four papers.)

Intercultural Liaison Committee Report: Barry Stiefel, on behalf of Simon-Pierre Lacasse

Simon-Pierre reflected on the importance of the formation of the Intercultural Liaison Committee last year and its role in increasing diversity and representation in the field of Canadian Jewish studies, with a focus on promoting Canadian Jewish studies in the French-speaking academic community. He noted that this was particularly important, given that a large segment of the Canadian Jewish population resides in Montreal and its role in the development of Quebec and Canada as a whole.

In particular, he noted the importance of historical material from the Jewish community in helping to expand French Canadian understanding of their own history.

Additionally, he discussed the need to promote better language duality, given the lack of French-language sources that are considered in research on Montreal and Quebec Jewry, and how problematic that was, particularly when addressing sensitive political issues and periods of tension between Jews and French Canadians.

With the broader goal of engaging with the French-speaking academic community, steps were taken to make ACJS publications and activities available and accessible to French-speaking academics. This included increasing the amount of bilingual and French content in the Bulletin (including general information, the Call for Papers,

and a French-language column), translating key website content and sending the translated Call for Papers to more than fifty associations within the network of major French universities in Quebec, including different branches of the Université du Québec, Université de Montréal, and Université Laval, as well as other institutions across the country, such as Université de Moncton, Collège Saint-Boniface, and Collège Saint-Jean at the University of Calgary.

In addition to the work that had already been done, Simon-Pierre suggested the following projects for the upcoming year: holding a conference in Montreal to promote the special issue of the CJS Journal "None Is Too Many and Beyond: New Research on Canada and the Jews During the 1930s and 1940s" and including francophone researchers, completing the process of making the website bilingual and inviting more French contributions to the Bulletin.

He also noted that while the current focus was on language duality, there was room within the mandate of Intercultural Liaison to expand its objectives, particularly to an interfaith approach that seeks to promote better understanding among different religions. Sandra Lipton's initiative in promoting the Glenbow Museum archives tour to the Canadian Society of Church History was a fine example of that type of partnership.

Simon-Pierre was sorry to miss this year's conference and wished that he could have presented, but he could not pass up the opportunity to travel to Israel for the first time for another conference. He thanked the Chairs and everyone present at the Annual General Meeting for supporting this endeavour and for entrusting him with the Committee Chair again next year.

Barry noted how fantastic the Committee was because it contained a whole other part of Canada to engage with.

Election: New Slate

Executive

Officers

President: Barry Stiefel
Vice-President: Steven Lapidus
Treasurer: Emily-Rose Lam
Secretary: Elizabeth Moorhouse-Stein/
Rebecca Margolis
Past President: Randal Schnoor

Executive Committee Chairs

Journal Editors: David Koffman and
Stephanie Schwartz
Bulletin Editor: Jason Chalmers
Chair, Communities and Archives: Dara
Solomon
Chair, Membership: Rebecca Margolis/
Elizabeth Moorhouse-Stein
Chair, Programs & Conference: SJ Kerr-
Lapsley, Janice Rosen, and Randal
Schnoor
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
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on By-laws
Update: Bernie Katz
Chair, Intercultural Ad-Hoc Committee:
Simon-Pierre Lacasse
Website Manager: Lillooet Nordlinger

Honorary Officer

Jerry Silver

Board of Directors

New Board Members for 2016-2019

Meghan Leane Cavanaugh
(ON, 2016-2019)
Allie Cuperfain (ON, 2016-2019)
Bernie Katz (ON, 2016-2019)

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Existing Board Members

Deidre Butler (ON, 2016-2018)
 Janice Rosen (QC, 2016-2018)
 Susan Landau-Chark (ON, 2016-2018)
 Jonathan Sarna (MA, 2015-2018)

Pierre Ancil (QC, 2016-2017)
 SJ Kerr-Lapsley (AB, 2016-2017)

Barry confirmed his support of the slate but postponed the vote until there was a quorum. Bernie raised the point that if the Constitution had not been amended, then we were not meeting the requirements of our Constitution – minimum and maximum numbers, from particular provinces, etc. He stated that we were incorporated at the provincial and federal levels and that we needed to either change the Constitution or ensure that the board met the by-laws. Changing by-laws was difficult because one had to formulate the changes, wait a year, and so on, so Bernie suggested adhering to our existing by-laws.

He also noted that the President had the ability to call for an ad-hoc committee to review the Constitution. Barry noted that there was a “Catch 22” of needing a quorum to change the quorum, which would make it impossible this year.

SJ suggested that we make a two-year plan for the Constitution, since we would have a quorum next year, and that we could plan ahead to review the Constitution and by-laws and propose changes that would be a better fit for our association.

Bernie then raised the issue of more active succession planning – to go ahead with amending the Constitution and simultaneously brainstorm who could fill different executive and chair positions in the future as well as recruiting people to do book reviews and be involved with different panels and projects.

This led to a discussion of the issues the ACJS often has with reaching people. Adara was a prime example of someone who had been active in the field and a

member for eight years, but the ACJS had never reached out to or engaged her. (Adara was interested in being more involved and taking on a leadership position, but next year she would be in Israel so it would have to be after that).

Peter then raised the issue of retention, noting that fewer and fewer people were attending each year. Barry referred to the survey he had done last year, which revealed that we had only around 35 or 36 active members.

Peter clarified that that was not what he was asking, that he was wondering about people who were already involved but not attending the conference. Barry said that it was a matter of money. SJ suggested that it would be worthwhile to ask people why they were not coming, because for some members it did come down to the expense but for others there were other reasons. The Brock conference was a good example because it was so close to Toronto, but of our last four conferences it was the most poorly attended.

Richard noted that it was not a ridiculous expenditure to guarantee that the President be fully covered to attend conferences, to which Barry replied that there was no room in the budget because we were losing money. Richard emphasized that it was important to ensure that we were budgeting to bring the President to the conferences.

Bernie agreed with Richard and asked how much the President's expenditure was and whether it should be increased. Barry said that the amount was \$250 CAD, and Bernie noted that that meant that it had not changed in 15 years. He also suggested that this be something the board should discuss at next year's Annual General Meeting.

Richard then asked about the possibility of donating airline points towards the President's airfare. No one was sure how this worked, but everyone thought it was a good idea, so Richard will look into it.

Ad-hoc Committee on Yiddish Report: Bernie Katz

Bernie began by acknowledging Gilda Katz's work as founding treasurer for what is now the Canadian Association for Applied Literature (formerly CABAL) and spoke a bit about her health issues, which had been very serious over the last year and a half. He noted that things had since settled down, and he would have more time now to carry his Committee plans forward.

The Committee still had strong support from Vivien Felson, Sylvia Lustgarten, Kalman Weiser, Rebecca Margolis and a few others who were prepared to be members or adjunct members of the Committee.

Bernie was excited about going forward with a national survey to determine exactly what was happening in Yiddish in Canada and was looking forward to an active year for the Committee in 2016-2017.

“Proposal for Multiple Membership Levels” Motion: Barry Stiefel

Barry proposed the following motion:

Whereas many organizations have multiple membership levels, including other Jewish Studies, for purposes of extra revenue generation and participation, the ACJS should consider having similar opportunities for voluntary donations above the already existing membership rate. The following are the proposed categories:

Canada – All except student memberships are for individual and/or family

Seniors, students, unwaged	
or member of affiliated society	C\$25.00
Individuals	C\$60.00
Historical societies, libraries, archives, etc.	C\$60.00
University or college programs	
or departments	C\$180.00

(Rates listed are all the current rates from the ACJS website)

New Voluntary Levels

Patron*	C\$120
Canada's Sesquicentennial*	C\$150
Cedar*	C\$500
Silver Birch*	C\$1000
Maple*	C\$2500

*International equivalents would be plus US\$10 in all new voluntarily levels, conforming to the standards already established for the Canadian rates, i.e. Individuals: US\$70.00, etc.

+Minus the value of membership for tax deduction with Revenue Canada.

Discussion

Ira noted that it would be difficult to implement unless there was an individual or committee in charge of soliciting donors. Barry said that we would need to set up the infrastructure first. Ira asked about the possibility of a Life Member category, which Barry said would have to come under a by-law review.

The idea of publicly acknowledging donors (on the website or elsewhere) was raised, but Bernie noted that while other organizations do this kind of thing very successfully, such as at the Toronto film festival, where the screen rolls donors, it was "comparing apples and oranges."

In the past when there were significant donors, they were given recognition from the Treasurer and through the President's letters, and where appropriate with institutional or corporate donations it would be made public through such mechanisms as putting donor logos on Community Day or conference materials.

Barry suggested the option of donating anonymously. Bernie was hesitant about whether the trees were the right categories. Peter said that if

we kept the trees (as he was a Jewish Canadian woodlot manager), sycamores were very difficult to find, so birch might be a better replacement.

He also stated that he was a member of several organizations that had different membership levels and that these were a bit steep. Barry asked what levels would be more appropriate, and Ira suggested that they be determined by a committee.

Peter stated that he bought a life membership in the Arctic Institute when he was younger, which amount was great at the time but made a big difference now. Bernie agreed that the proposed amounts were a bit too high and noted that Frank, as the Financial Committee Chair, was eminently qualified to figure out these details, so the Committee ought to look at the motion. Barry said that they saw it and that it was fine.

Bernie asked for clarification about taxes: whether we could give income tax receipts as long as no part of it brought specific benefits to the membership fee, and that this should be made clear to donors, i.e. if we had a category that was \$150, it had to be clear that the tax receipt would be for \$100 not \$150 (if the membership fee was \$50, only "x" amount would be tax-deductible). Revenue Canada would have to be contacted to clarify these details.

Ira suggested that as we were still short of a quorum, we adjourn the Annual General Meeting, to be reopened at 3:00 p.m. after the Educators' Roundtable, and we could ask at least twelve people to remain and vote on the resolutions.

This was mandatory for the Treasurer's Report, the election and Ira's proposed motion. Barry seconded the motion. Bernie noted that it was not a motion but the President's prerogative to call for an adjournment. Barry stated that the Annual General Meeting would reconvene at 3:00 p.m., with Ira as the designated active president.

Annual General Meeting Reconvened 3:10pm MT

Present: Scarlett Andes, Lindsay Jackson, Bernie Katz, SJ Kerr-Lapsley, Sandra Lipton, Richard Menkis, Goldie Morgentaler, Ira Robinson, Yosef Robinson, Irving Rosen, Janice Rosen, Jonathan Selwin, Barry Stiefel

Motions

On a motion by Irving Rosen, seconded by Bernie Katz, the Treasurer's report was passed.

On a motion by Richard Menkis, seconded by Adara Goldberg, the resolution to reappoint accountants Silver and Goren was passed.

On a motion by Richard Menkis to thank the accountants, seconded by Daniel Maoz, the resolution was passed. Thank you, Silver and Goren!

On a motion by Richard Menkis, seconded by Goldie Morgentaler, the resolution to accept the slate of Executive and Board members was passed.

Regarding Barry's motion concerning donor categories, Ira proposed an amendment that the President appoint a committee to work out/clarify the details. The amendment was as follows: That the President appoint a committee to consider new categories and report to the new Annual General Meeting.

On a motion by Ira, seconded by Bernie Katz, the resolution with amendment was passed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the 2016 Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m. MT. □



ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES
ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDES JUIVES CANADIENNES

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ACJS/AEJC AFFILIATED SOCIETIES & INSTITUTIONS (2016-2017)

(Asterisks denote institutional members)

SOCIÉTÉS ET INSTITUTIONS AFFILIÉES À L'AEJC (2016-2017)

(les astérisques indiquent les membres institutionnels)

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