



Richard Menkis: 2018 Recipient of the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS) is very pleased to announce Richard Menkis as the 2018 recipient of the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award. Professor Menkis has a long and very distinguished career as a strong advocate for and practitioner of the scholarship and teaching of Canadian Jewish studies.

Dr. Menkis received his PhD from Brandeis University in 1988 and for many years held a position in the Department of Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies with a cross-appointment to the Department of History at the University of British Columbia. He is currently Associate Professor of Medieval and Modern Jewish History in the History Department at UBC. In addition to the surveys of medieval and modern Jewish history, he has taught advanced undergraduate courses on the Holocaust; Canadian Jewish history; fascism and antifascism; the historiography of genocide; and Jewish identity and the graphic novel. He continues to supervise both MA and PhD student theses at UBC and has served on PhD committees at other institutions.



Dr. Menkis's research interests focus on Canadian Jewish studies, and he has published widely on the cultural and religious history of Canadian Jewry. His articles have appeared in *American Jewish History*, *American Jewish Archives*, *Canadian Ethnic Studies*, *Canadian Jewish Studies* and in a number of edited volumes. Dr. Menkis was co-author, with Harold Troper, of *More Than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics* (University of Toronto Press, 2015), a seminal work in the field that presents a thorough investigation of the responses and reactions of both Jewish and non-Jewish Canadian athletes and their communities to participation in the games. He is continuing the research for a publication, begun with Gerald Tulchinsky (z"l), on an aspect of the Canadian Jewish garment industry.

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WE COULDN'T BE MORE EXCITED ABOUT THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE, which will take place at three wonderful venues from May 13-15 in Montreal: the McCord Museum, McGill and Concordia Universities (please see page 4 for the agenda).

Sunday is our Community Day, and we encourage all members of the broader community to come out and see what we have in store, free of charge. On that day, we'll have panels by established and emerging scholars on "Jewish Performances," "Contemporary Yiddish in Montreal" and "Identity Performance." We have much more than panels planned during the day, including two book launches by Ellin Bessner and Peter Usher as well as a launch for Seymour Mayne's new book of poetry. Finally, if you'd like to stay for the exciting evening events, we have a wonderful evening planned, composed of our annual awards ceremony with a dessert reception and what promises to be a fascinating concert, entitled "Musiques juives: Accords sacrés et profanes." This year's conference promises to be truly exciting, and we couldn't be happier with how it's coming together.

We hope to see you in May.

Jessica Roda and Jesse Toufexis
Conference Coordinators

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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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<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).



President's Message



It is with overwhelming pride that I am reporting on the activities of the ACJS over the last academic year. During my first year as president, I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with a fantastic board and executive, who have gone above and beyond in setting into place new initiatives to both stabilize and expand our organization.

To mention just a few: we have been completely rebranded with a new logo and website (thank you, Jesse); we have publicity postcards to distribute at our events and events of interest to potential members (merci, Simon-Pierre); our members have been actively coordinating events (thank you, SJ and Lindsey); our exciting conference in Montreal (May 13-15) on the theme of "Performance," taking place at Concordia University, includes a special community day at the McCord Museum and ending with a special concert as well as a roundtable at McGill University (merci, Jessica). In addition, our budget remains balanced (thank you, Michael), *Canadian Jewish Studies* remains the

leading scholarly journal in the field (thank you, David and Elizabeth), our *Bulletin* looks great as always (thank you, Jason and Shirley), and nominations are running smoothly (thank you, Hernan). We look forward to expanding our reach through new initiatives to co-sponsor events and hold more activities at the community level.

Thank you to our entire leadership team for your dedicated service, and thank you to our devoted membership for continuing to participate in and support our activities. We are always looking for new involvement on our board and executive, so please do not hesitate to reach out via email or in person at our annual conference in May.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Margolis



Editor's Message

One of my favourite things about editing the *Bulletin* is that I get to review institutional updates from across Canada. It's encouraging to see that Jewish life is so vibrant in both major cities and smaller centres throughout the country. In this issue, you can read about Jewish architecture in Winnipeg, cuisine in Vancouver, and business in Saint John.

While many Jewish communities in Canada are geographically removed from one another, there are many things that bring them together. It is easy to see that they are bound together by an appreciation for aspects of Jewish tradition, such as language and literature, architecture and the arts, and memory and music. Another thing that unites

physically distant communities is the ACJS. The ACJS and its publications — *Canadian Jewish Studies/Études juives canadiennes* and the *ACJS Bulletin* — have become a hub where communities converge and share with one another.

I am grateful to everyone who has helped ensure that this issue was a success. Special thanks to Shirley Muhlstock Brodt for the wonderful production.

Sincerely,

Jason Chalmers



Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

Association d'études juives canadiennes

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE May 13-15, 2018 | du 13 au 15 mai 2018 Montréal, Québec

SUNDAY, MAY 13 | DIMANCHE LE 13 MAI

Location | Musée McCord Museum, 690, rue Sherbrooke Ouest

Sunday's sessions are open to the public free of charge. Tickets to the evening refreshments and concert are \$25 (\$15 for students).

Les séances du dimanche sont ouvertes au public gratuitement. Les billets pour les rafraîchissements et le concert du soir sont de 25 \$ (15 \$ pour étudiants).

9:00 – 10:00 AM: Registration | Inscription

9:30 – 10:00 AM: Welcome | Bienvenue

10:00 – 11:30 AM: Session 1: Jewish Performances

David Koffman (York University): *Playing Indian at Jewish Summer Camp: Lessons on Tribalism, Nationalism, and Character Building*

Randal Schnoor (York University): *Approaches to Engaging Interfaith Families in Toronto*

Kelly Train (Ryerson University): *Authenticity and Jewish Identity: Race, Culture and the Construction of Community*

11:30 – 1:00 PM: Lunch n' Launch: Ellin Bessner and Peter Usher Book Launch

A light lunch will be served on-site | un repas léger sera servi sur place

1:00 – 2:30 PM: Session 2: Contemporary Yiddish in Montreal

Vardit Lightstone (University of Toronto): *Traditional Innovation: An Analysis of the Folk Literature of Yiddish Speaking Immigrants*

Michele Byers (Saint Mary's University): *Performing Yiddishly: Language and Return in Yid Life Crisis*

Keira Kenny (McGill University): *Klezmer Revival*

2:30 – 3:00 PM: Coffee Break | pause-café

3:00 – 4:00 PM: Le chant de Moïse/The Song of Moses, Biblical Poems by Seymour Mayne, translated into French by Caroline Lavoie

4:00-5:00 PM: Session 3: Identity Performance

Franklin Bialystok (University of Toronto): *Composer Srul Irving Glick and Performer Jacques Israelivitch Suite Hebraique: A Landmark Composition in Canadian Jewish Music*

Hernan Tesler-Mabé (University of Ottawa): *Ottawa on the Moldau: The English-language Premiere of the Jewish Children's Opera Brundibár in Ottawa, 1977*

7:00 – 8:00 PM: Awards ceremony & dessert reception | Remise des prix & réception des desserts

8:00 PM: Concert : "Musiques juives : accords sacrés et profanes"

Samuel Bonnet, guitare

Nathaniel Huard, percussion

Yoni Kaston, clarinette et accordéon

Khalil Moqadem, oud et chant

Interprètes:

Yolande Amzallag

Hélène Engel

Orel Gozlan

MONDAY, MAY 14 | LUNDI LE 14 MAI

Location | Lieu : Concordia University, Atrium of the SB Building 1590 Dr. Penfield (corner Côte des Neiges)

8:30 – 10:00 AM: Open Board Meeting, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies | Réunion publique, Association des études juives canadiennes

10:00 – 10:30 AM: Coffee Break | pause-café

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Session 4: Humanitarianism and the Holocaust

Adara Goldberg (Stockton University): *Flexing Its Humanitarian Arm: The Memory of the St. Louis, Canada's Jews, and Postwar Refugee Policy*

Magdalene Klassen (McGill University): *Going Out Into the World: Humanitarianism, Assimilation, and Gender among Jewish members of the Imperial Order of the*

Daughters of the Empire, 1900-1939

Barbara Weiser (Independent Scholar): *Fitting Places of Memory: Canadian Holocaust Memorials*

12:00 – 1:00 PM: Lunch break | pause diner (provided)

1:00 – 2:30 PM: Session 5: *Performing Jewish Stories*

Simone Grossman (Bar Ilan University): *Portrait du Juif en écrivain québécois*

Sharon Gubbay Helfer (Concordia University): *Four Contemporary Montreal Rabbis: Life Stories Across Linguistic, Cultural and Denominational Divides*

Alexandria Fanjoy Silver (University of Toronto): *Performative History & Poland on the Toronto March of the Living*

2:30 – 3:00 PM: Coffee Break | pause-café

3:00 – 4:30 PM: Session 6: *Moments in Jewish Canadiana*

Richard Menkis (University of British Columbia) and Gerald Tulchinsky (z"l): *Jewish Reactions to the Phillips Garment Fire, (Toronto, 1950): A Study in Historiography and History*

Goldie Morgentaler (University of Lethbridge): *The Strange, Sad Story of Prof. Tony Hall and the University that Could Not Get Rid of Him*

Ira Robinson (Concordia University): *A History of Halakha in Quebec*

5:00 PM: Roundtable at McGill University: “Performing Jewishness: Issues and Challenges Across Time and Cultures”

Prof. Erica Lehrer (Concordia University)

Prof. Christopher Silver (McGill University)

Prof. Anna Shternshis (University of Toronto)

TUESDAY, MAY 15 | MARDI LE 15 MAI

Location | Emplacement : Concordia University, Atrium of the SB Building 1590 Dr. Penfield (corner Côte

des Neiges)

8:30 – 10:00 AM: Annual General Meeting, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies | Assemblée générale annuelle, Association des études juives canadiennes

10:00 – 10:30 AM: Coffee Break | pause-café

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Session 7: *Hasidism*

Steven Lapidus (Concordia University) and William Shaffir (McMaster University): *Institutional Completeness and ... Yet*

Valentina Gaddi (Université de Montréal): « *We don't wanna be outlaws !* » : *performances de la judaïté hassidique et vivre ensemble dans le quartier d'Outremont.*

Joshua Tapper (Stanford University): *“This Is Who I Would Become”: Russian Jewish Immigrants and Their Encounters with Chabad-Lubavitch in the Greater Toronto Area*

12:00 – 1:00 PM: Lunch break | pause diner (provided)

1:00 – 3:00 PM: Session 8: *Canadian Jewish Ethnic Life*

Yosef Robinson (Concordia University): *Geography of Interwar Montreal*

Dana Ionescu (UQÀM): *La présence juive roumaine à Montréal; quelques considerations*

Joshua Falek (York University): *Purim as Site Rife with Jewish Abjection*

Christopher Chanco (York University): *Title Forthcoming*

3:00 – 3:30 PM: Coffee Break | pause-café

3:30-4:15 PM: Session 9: *Future Research “Lightning” Feedback Workshop*

5:00 PM: *Sephardic Spaces: Reshaping Jewish Montreal Walking Tour*

We wish to thank our sponsors | Nous remercions sincèrement nos commanditaires:

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New Jewish Press
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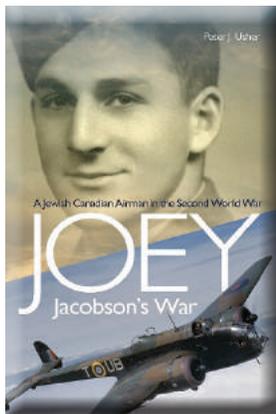
ON THE *Bookshelf*  SUR *les rayons*

For an ongoing list of ACJS members' publications,
please visit the website at <http://acjs-aejc.ca/our-members-publications/>.

Usher, Peter J. *Joey Jacobson's War: A Jewish-Canadian Airman in the Second World War*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2018.

In the spring of 1940, Canada sent hundreds of highly trained volunteers to serve in Britain's Royal Air Force as it began a concerted bombing campaign against Germany. Nearly half of them were killed or captured within a year. This is the story of one of those airmen as told through his own letters and diaries as well as those of his family and friends.

Joey Jacobson, a young Jewish man from Westmount on the Island of Montreal, trained as a navigator and bomb-aimer in Western Canada. On arriving in England he was assigned to No. 106 Squadron, a British unit tasked with the bombing of Germany. *Joey Jacobson's War* tells, in his own words, why he enlisted, his understanding of strategy, tactics, and the effectiveness of the air war at its lowest point, how he responded to the inevitable battle stress, and how he became both a hopeful idealist and a seasoned airman.



Jacobson's written legacy as a serviceman is impressive in scope and depth and provides a lively and intimate account of a Jewish Canadian's life in the air and on the ground, written in the intensity of the moment, unfiltered by the memoirist's reflection, revision or hindsight. Accompanying excerpts from his father's diary show the maturation of the relationship between father and son in a dangerous time.

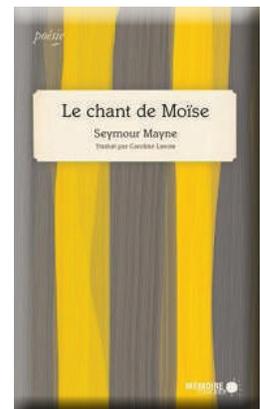
Mayne, Seymour. *Le chant de Moïse/The Song of Moses*. Translated by Caroline Lavoie. Montreal: Mémoire d'encrier, 2018.

"I was introduced to the stories of the Hebrew Bible very early – in kindergarten... From those early years the stories of our matriarchs and patriarchs were imprinted on my imagination. What made them so vivid was their resemblance to the behaviour of my immigrant Ukrainian-Russian Jewish family..."

So I read my family through the filter of Biblical stories, and I understood the tales of Genesis as they reflected family experience. I still consider Abraham and Sarah and the others as extended members of my own family — almost in the here and now!"

Biblical stories that have captured Seymour Mayne's interest over the years can be found in Beresheet (Genesis) and Shmot (Exodus) and include the account of Abraham and his family, the predicament of Joseph and his brothers, and the tumultuous life and times of Moses.

Noted translator Caroline Lavoie has rendered this sequence of Seymour Mayne's Biblical poems. The author and translator will offer readers and listeners a bilingual sampling of the texts, with creative readings drawn from the midrashic tradition of commentary, at the ACJS annual conference in Montreal.



Articles and Special Issues:

Mayne, Seymour. "Dream the Living into Speech: A Selection of Poems and a Homage to Yiddish." *Shirim* (2018). Special issue featuring the poetry and memoir of Seymour Mayne.

Morgentaler, Goldie. "A Tale of Two Writers: Chava Rosenfarb and Zenia Larsson." *Tablet Magazine* (2018).



Jewish Museum and Archives of BC

Throughout much of 2017, the Jewish Museum and Archives of BC celebrated the diversity of international Jewish cuisine through *The Chosen Food Supper Club* and *The Kitchen Stories* podcast series. These innovative public programs reached over 4,000 people and have attracted substantial attention for the small organization. On the success of these programs, Michael Schwartz, JMABC Director of Community Engagement, has been invited to speak at numerous industry conferences, including the Vancouver Food Summit, the BC Museums Association Conference, the Lower Mainland Museum Educators Conference, the Canadian Museums Association Conference, and Museums and the Web.

The Chosen Food Supper Club and *The Kitchen Stories* podcasts have now come to an end, but interested listeners can still find all episodes of *The Kitchen Stories* on the JMABC website at jewishmuseum.ca/the-kitchen-stories, or through their favourite podcast app.

Innovative programs continue at the JMABC this year with the launch of the BC/Canada 150-supported project “East End Stories,” a series of six videos commemorating the Jewish community’s early roots in Vancouver’s historic Strathcona neighbourhood.

Join us Sunday June 10, 2018, for this special event!

Archival work continues apace, as archivist Alysia Routtenberg leads interns and volunteers in processing the JMABC’s two largest collections: the Jewish Historical Society fonds and the Canadian Jewish Congress-Pacific Region fonds. Stay tuned for exhibits based on these collections in the near future.



Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

“Building Community: An Online Tour of Historic Jewish Calgary” was officially launched at our Annual General Meeting program on October 30. This project was partly funded by a Canada 150 grant through the Calgary Foundation. This virtual tour can now be accessed at www.jhssa.org/building-community-tour.

Thanks to an additional grant from the Government of Canada’s Documentary Heritage Communities Program, we have been able to continue work on the JHSSA Archives Backlog project. This current round of funding has enabled us to process significant accruals to several significant fonds, particularly those of B’nai Brith. We have processed the textual records of many major local Jewish organizations and have also created item lists for many of our fonds.

JHSSA hosted a presentation at the JCC Jewish Book Festival in December by Ellin Bessner about her book *Double Threat*. Ken Drabinsky is continuing his monthly Genealogy Sunday Workshops in partnership with temple B’nai Tikvah. The

February session focused on Sephardic genealogy resources.

This spring we will be hosting the exhibit created by the Jewish Cultural Association of the Yukon about the Jewish presence in the Gold Rush. Our spring program on May 7 will feature local author Trudy Cowan, who will present her new children’s book, *Quarantine: Keep Out!* The book tells the tale of the impact of the 1918 flu epidemic on the Jewish community in the area of the Montefiore Colony.



Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada

Recent Programs and Exhibits

December 5: The JHC ran a program jointly with the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation (WAF) devoted to Green, Blankstein, and Russell, a major architecture firm in Winnipeg since the 1930s. After World War II, it designed many important buildings, including Shaarey Zedek Synagogue (1950) and City Hall (1963), using modernist and internationalist principles. The firm also worked across Canada and in Israel.

The program featured a launch of Jeffrey Thornsteinson and Brenda Smith’s book, *Green, Blankstein, and Russell: An Architectural Legacy*. See the WAF website for numerous details about the firm and the buildings it designed.

An exhibit prepared by WAF can be seen in the JHC display area.

January: A three-day program for International Holocaust Day was organized by the Freeman Foundation Holocaust Education Centre of

Continued from page 7

the JHC in conjunction with the Azrieli Foundation, B'nai Brith, Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Congregation Shaarey Zedek, the Dante Aligheri Society, Vice-Consulate of Italy, and the Lupa di Roma Lodge. The events were: a) a screening of "The Garden of the Finzi-Continis" and a talk by Dr. Jeremy Maron, curator at the CMHR; b) a talk on Primo Levi by Dr. Alain Goldschlager (University of Western Ontario); and c) a talk on the Catholic Church and the Holocaust by Father Sam Argenziano.

March: The 17th Holocaust Symposium, which draws over 1,500 students annually, was held on March 14 this year and featured Holocaust survivor Robbie Waisman and Senator Murray Sinclair, former judge and chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Late March: The Jewish Heritage Centre and Manitoba Historical Society presented a joint program discussing some of their recent activities. The JHC speakers were Susan Turner (Synagogues Exhibit) and Belle Jarniewski (Holocaust Education Centre). The MHS speakers were Gordon Goldsborough (Mapping Historical Data) and John Lehr (Hutterites).

Internship Program: The annual internship program partners with the Gray Academy of Jewish Education day school. This year's intern is pursuing research on the Holocaust orphans who came to Winnipeg in 1947-1948, especially her grandparents.



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

Recent Events

Four ACJS members presented a panel entitled "Congress & Federation: Precedents & Adaptations of Jewish Self-Governance Models" at "150 Ideas That Shaped Canada," the Avie Bennett Conference at York University in October 2017. Frank Bialystok presented "From Democracy to Oligarchy? The Demise of the Canadian Jewish Congress"; David Koffman spoke on "Congress & Federation: Precedents and Adaptations"; Jack Lipinsky presented "Balancing on a Hyphen: Unifying Forces in the Canadian Jewish community to 1934"; and Stephanie Schwartz discussed "Federations @ 100: Analyzing the Digital Record."

David Koffman spoke at the installation opening of the "Canadian Jewish Experience – A Canada 150 Tribute" exhibit at Queen's Park, Ontario Provincial Parliament, in November 2017.

"Jews as Refugees."

Our speakers will include Yael Braudo-Bahat, our visiting professor in Israel studies, Professor Sharon Delmendo of St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York, and Professor Olga Gershenson of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. More information will be available at <http://cjs.yorku.ca/>.

CJN Awards

Call for Submissions 2018 - The Canadian Jewish Literary Awards will again acknowledge excellence in writing on Jewish themes and subjects by Canadian authors.

The 2018 awards program will accept submissions of books on Jewish subjects or with significant Jewish content published between May 1, 2017, and May 31, 2018. The submission deadline is May 31, 2018.

York University's Scott Library also hosted the nine-panel exhibition for a number of weeks in the fall.

Upcoming Events

April 22, 2018: Wolinsky Lectures

This year's Wolinsky Lectures will take place on Sunday April 22, 2018, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and we are pleased to announce that this year's topic will be

Last year, more than sixty submissions were received from Canadian publishers.

Some of the books recognized by the Canadian Jewish Literary Awards have gone on to receive other major awards, including a Governor General's Literary Award for *My Shoes Are Killing Me* by Robyn Sarah, and a National Jewish Book Award in the United States for *Birth, Sex and Abuse:*

Women's Voices Under Nazi Rule by Beverley Chalmers.

For more information, see the submissions criteria and the award categories below, or contact Edward Trapunski, Chair, info@cjlawards.ca.

Submissions Criteria

We invite you to submit any books on a Jewish theme or on a Jewish topic by a Canadian author. The prizes will continue the tradition of recognizing the best books on Jewish subjects by Canadian authors, who need not themselves be Jewish.

Eligibility

- Books written on subjects with Jewish themes or with significant Jewish content
- Books written by Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada
- Books written in English or French
- Books published between May 1, 2017, and May 31, 2018
- Books with a 13-digit ISBN, including E-books
- Books with Jewish content written by non-Jewish authors are eligible
- Graphic books
- Previously submitted titles, new translations (except from Yiddish) and reissues are ineligible.

How to Submit

Five copies of each book. For E-Books: Three free downloads and two hard copies.

Completed submission form.

\$40 entry fee per title submitted.

Cheques should be made out to: York University Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies and mailed to:

The Canadian Jewish Literary Awards, Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies, 763 Kaneff Tower, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3.

Submissions must be received by May 31, 2018. Early submissions are encouraged and appreciated. Send submissions to the address noted above.



**Max and Tessie Zelikovitz
Centre for Jewish Studies**
CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies

Through its activities and events, the [Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies \(ZC\)](#) at Carleton University continues to make connections between academics and the broader community. Each year, ZC partners with Limmud Ottawa to deliver a rich program for this international adult learning conference. This year on March 18, ZC researchers joined other scholars, researchers, artists and the community at large to share in this day-long celebration of Jewish learning.

This year's presentations emphasized the scope and variation of the research undertaken by Zelikovitz Centre affiliates. Presenters Hernan Tesler-Mabé spoke about Hans Krasa's *Brundibár* (1943), a children's opera first performed in Theresienstadt, which had its English-language premiere in Ottawa in 1977; Sigal Barkai displayed the works of contemporary Israeli artists who bring the Holocaust into their artworks; Allan Laine Kagedan spoke about the movement in the Soviet Union (1920s) to create a Russian Jewish homeland; Peggy J. Kleinplatz addressed the untold story of the use of routine pharmacological procedures on women in Auschwitz and its consequences; Andrea Lobel spoke on astronomy and rabbinic authority; Susan Landau-Chark talked about Jews and politics in 19th-century Canada; and Seymour Mayne entertained and informed with creative readings drawn from the midrashic tradition of commentary.

The 2017-2018 Developing Future Leaders cohort raised funds to support the enhancement of the Ojigkwanong Centre, "a home away from home" for many Indigenous students, and JET's (Jewish Education through Torah) educational programming. They did this by holding a silent auction in conjunction with the screening of the film "Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities."

On March 18, the ZC hosted feminist Biblical scholar Carol Meyers, who spoke on "Holy Land Archeology: Where the Past Meets the Present."

On March 19, Russian geographer and historian Professor Pavel Polian was in Ottawa to speak to Carleton students about the Soviet Union, forced migrations, and Soviet Jewish war prisoners.

In May, eighteen undergraduate and graduate students will accompany Deidre Butler and Professor Mary Hale of St. Mary's University for nineteen days (May 2-22) in Israel as part of the RELI 3850-5850 Israel Travel Course (<https://carleton.ca/studyisrael/itinerary/>). Lectures and classes will be taking place in partnership with Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University, and the tours arranged will offer numerous opportunities to study religion in historical and contemporary contexts.



Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives

The Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives are home to Barbara Weiser's data base of Canadian Art in Sacred Spaces. These archives are also held at the Centre for Jewish Art at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, where Dr. Vladimir Levin is Acting Director. Weiser has been conducting an

ongoing research project that includes art in synagogues and cemeteries across Canada. The Centre for Jewish Art has carried out a comprehensive



From the Centre for Jewish Art Catalogue of Wall Paintings in Central and East European Synagogues.

program of documenting sacred Jewish art from around the globe for the past thirty years, with special attention to the remnants of Jewish art left after the havoc of WWII and the Communist regimes in Europe. The data entry should be complete by autumn 2018. You can access these archives at www.cjhn.ca/en/permalink/cjhn317 or at <http://cja.huji.ac.il/>.



Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

The Saint John Jewish Historical Society elected a new board of directors at its annual general meeting in November 2017. Dr. Elizabeth McGahan was elected as the new president of the organization and will serve for the coming year.

The organization has adopted the concept of the “three-person presidency,” which includes current and incoming presidents and a past president or “wisdom” person. In this

way, the Museum can draw on the experience of past board members and encourage others to step up into leadership roles.



Dr. Elizabeth McGahan

Several projects have been funded by grants. Funding from the Exhibition Renewal and Museum Activities Support Program, Heritage Branch, Province of New Brunswick, is being used to support three projects:

1. Expansion of the exhibit “Exceptional Jewish Men and Women from Saint John” – This exhibit presents brief biographies of prominent current and former members of the Saint John Jewish community.

The exhibit recognizes the significant contributions made by members of the Saint John Jewish community from the mid-19th century to the present day.

2. Update of an exhibit on Jewish businesses in Saint John – “Open for Business.” We propose to add more archival documents (letterhead, newspaper stories, oral and written reminiscences), photographs (including some from the collections of Isaac Erb and other prominent Saint John photographers) and additional information collected from the Saint John city directories and the Saint John newspapers, including feature stories and advertisements.

With the arrival of more than one hundred new Jewish residents

in Saint John, we propose to examine the small businesses created by some of these new arrivals and reflect on how these differ from the small businesses created in previous generations.

3. The Holocaust Study Group education program – Each year, the Museum holds a series of seven workshop sessions for high school students, chosen by their teachers, from the greater Saint John area to learn more about the Holocaust. The history of the Holocaust is shared by guest speakers, the use of documentary film, reading exercises, and the opportunity to create original writing and art. The students are recognized for their interest at the Yom Hashoah service.

An online exhibit for the Virtual Museum of History is nearing completion. This will tell the story of the Saint John Jewish community from the arrival of David Gabel in 1783 to the present day. It will be launched in the summer or autumn of 2018.

Pending the approval of other grant applications, projects to undertake oral histories from current and past members of the Saint John Jewish community, the digitization of slides and photographs featuring the work of a Saint John artist, and the development community and public programming for the Dr. Moses I. Polowin Memorial Library are under consideration.

Several events are planned for the coming months, including Yom Hashoah to be marked on April 16, the Sixth Annual Spring Variety Concert on May 10, and the Fifth Annual Saint John Jewish Film Festival from October 20-25.

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum will open its doors to the public from May 1 to November 2, 2018. □

A Yiddish Parody on Royal Life

by Irving B. Rosen, M.D.

At the turn of the century, Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier and his immigration minister, Clifford Sifton, encouraged immigration to Canada. They promoted it by promising free land grants to continental Europeans with farming expertise. East European Jewish urbanites got caught up in the settlement of Canadian cities and towns. By 1930 in Toronto, they made up 7% of the city's population of 600,000 and had settled in a central slum known as "the ward."

Pirates of Penzance, and Mikado — were presented in rotation, along with others. Students with singing ambitions transferred to HCI to participate in the two-week operetta run, which usually sold out.

The essence of Gilbert and Sullivan's works is parody of English life: its manners, speech, gender roles, music, law, patriotism and more. When Gilbert, who wrote the words, received knighthood, royalty and government vented their displeasure

emergence of TSO conductor Victor Feldbrill, comics Wayne and Shuster, and singers Evelyn Gould and Selma Lenchner.



Conductor and violinist Victor Feldbrill. Photo courtesy of Toronto Musicians' Association.



Harbord Collegiate prior to 1932. City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1257.

For secondary education, their children went to Commercial High if they aspired to business, Central Tech for the trades, but usually Harbord Collegiate Institute (HCI), which had a 90+% population of Jewish youth.

This school was also uniquely characterized by its annual Gilbert and Sullivan operetta presentations. The big three — HMS Pinafore,

with his parodic lyrics.

The sight of Jewish immigrants' progeny behaving as parodying members of the English court or government appeared odd and worthy of introspection. But these students, who were still looked down upon as immigrants' kids, enjoyed posing as society's upper crust. These opportunities facilitated the

Gilbert and Sullivan — not usually the hallmark of Toronto's Jewish life — provided a message of societal fallacy to generations of adolescents. The performances helped transform students' personalities. Their experiences in Gilbert and Sullivan put them in good stead for dealing with grown-up responsibilities, and they emerged into challenging adulthood and a not-entirely-unfamiliar culture. And, above all, it was always great fun! □



Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster. Courtesy of *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*, September 12, 2017.

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.



Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies

Winter 2018 Programs

- **Yosef Dov Robinson** (Concordia University) spoke on the topic “**The Geography of Jewish Interwar Montreal: A Demographic and Cartographic Survey**” in cooperation with the **Museum of Jewish Montreal**, February 20.
- **Professor Ira Robinson** (Concordia University) spoke on the topic “**By the Rivers of the St. Lawrence**”: **The Montreal Jewish Community and Its Postmemory**” on March 7.
- **Professor David Stern** (Harvard University) spoke on the topic “**Through the Pages of the Past: the Jewish Book in History**” in cooperation with **Congregation Beth Israel Beth Aaron**, the **Azrieli Institute for Israel Studies**, **Concordia University**, **Concordia University Department of Religions and Cultures**, and the **Concordia Religion Students Association**, March 14.
- **Professor David Stern** (Harvard University) spoke on the topic “**Why Study the Bible Materially?**” in cooperation with **Congregation Beth Israel Beth Aaron**, the **Azrieli Institute for Israel Studies**, **Concordia University**, **Concordia University Department of Religions and Cultures**, and the **Concordia Religion Students Association**, March 15.
- **Professor Pierre Anctil** (Ottawa University): Launch of his two books/Lancement de ses deux livres : **Jacob Isaac Segal: A Montreal Yiddish Poet and His Milieu** (University of Ottawa Press); **Histoire des Juifs du Québec** (Les Éditions du Boréal), April 24.
- The annual meetings of the **Association for Canadian Jewish Studies** and the **Canadian Society for Jewish Studies** at Concordia University, hosted by the **Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies**, May 14-15.

For further information:

Telephone: 514-848-2424, ext. 2074; Email: cjs.fas@concordia.ca.



The University of Ottawa's Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program introduces its new Option in Jewish Canadian Studies

The Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program is happy to announce a new Option in Jewish Canadian Studies beginning in May 2018. The Option is a micro-degree consisting of three courses from among our course offerings that students can complete as part of their studies. The Jewish Canadian Studies Option is open to students enrolled in any program at the University of Ottawa, regardless of their discipline. This means that, for example, a law student with an interest in Jewish Canadian studies could complete an Option in the

subject. The Option represents a new initiative by the University's Faculty of Arts to allow students more flexibility in pursuing their interests. Options can be "stacked," and students will graduate with several Options of their choice on top of their regular degree.

The attractions of this new Option in Jewish Canadian Studies are many. Our program remains home to leading scholars in the field, with a core faculty consisting of Pierre Anctil, Rebecca Margolis and Seymour Mayne. We offer a variety of fascinating courses in a multidisciplinary environment that

spans history, literature, film, religious studies, ethnic studies, Canadian studies, Holocaust studies, Yiddish language and culture, and others. The Option allows students to explore the past and present of an ethnic and religious group that has shaped and been shaped by the Canadian experience for the last 250 years. The focus of the Option will be up to each student to decide: the history of the Jewish experience in Canada; literature and film produced by Jewish Canadians; the Holocaust; Yiddish language and culture; and others.

For more information, please contact Professor Rebecca Margolis, Option Coordinator, at Rebecca.Margolis@uOttawa.ca or visit us at <https://arts.uottawa.ca/en/programs/vered>. □

Continued from page 1

Dr. Menkis has helped lay the infrastructure for the study and teaching of Canadian Jewish history. He was the founding editor of *Canadian Jewish Studies (CJS)*, the Association's scholarly journal, guiding it carefully through the many stages of design and editorship to the successful publication of its first issue, in 1993. He taught one of the first courses in Canadian Jewish history, and his syllabus was widely consulted.

He was co-editor (with Norman Ravvin) of the landmark *Canadian Jewish Studies Reader* (Red Deer Press, 2004), which won the Canadian Jewish Book Award for Scholarship on a Jewish Subject in 2006 and is used in courses in Canadian Jewish studies.

For the 22-volume revision of the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* (2nd edition, Macmillan, 2007), Menkis and Harold Troper were the Divisional co-editors for Canadian subjects, commissioning and editing some 240 individual articles; this represented a greatly expanded and a virtual reworking of all the entries dealing with Canada.

Dr. Menkis was responsible for writing, re-writing or co-writing over twenty of the entries.

Dr. Menkis has played a very important role in the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies. In addition to founding *CJS*, he continued in his role as editor until the publication of a special issue devoted to a bibliography of works published since 1965 on "Jews and Judaism in Canada" in 1999-2000. He also was one of the four compilers of that bibliography. Another noteworthy special issue was the 1996-1997 volume focusing on Canadian perspectives on the Holocaust, for which he shared editorial responsibility with Paula Draper. After stepping down as *CJS* editor, Richard co-edited (with Ira Robinson) one more double issue of the journal in 2005-2006, co-published with *Jewish History*.

He chaired the local arrangements committee (Faith Jones, Betty Nitkin and Ronnie Tessler) for the Association's extremely successful Vancouver conference in 2008, when he also worked with his committee to assure funding through gifts and grants

from local donors and agencies. He also co-edited with Faith Jones a "manifesto" in honour of Seymour Levitan's receiving the Association's Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award that same year.

Working with the lay community is of importance to the Association, and the award also acknowledges that Dr. Menkis has been extensively involved with Vancouver's Jewish community. He has supported institutions such as the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre (VHEC) and the Jewish Museum and Archives of British Columbia. He has served as the co-author of two exhibitions for the VHEC and has participated in public history projects with the Museum.

For his body of research, his leadership in the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, his selfless devotion to academia, and his deep engagement with the wider Jewish community in Vancouver and beyond, Professor Richard Menkis is the very deserving recipient of the 2018 Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award. □

The Department of English at Ryerson University
The Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program at the University of Ottawa
The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies
and
Library and Archives Canada

present a conference

Canadian Holocaust Literature: Charting the Field
Sunday, October 28, 2018
Ottawa, Canada

Call for Papers

Although the Holocaust has long engaged writers in Canada — those with and without direct links to the historic event — their particular exploration of the subject has received little critical or scholarly attention. There now exists a significant body of Canadian Holocaust literature that warrants such attention.

We invite proposals for the first-ever conference devoted to Canadian Holocaust literature. The aim of this landmark conference is twofold: to identify a corpus of work and to generate scholarly interest in the field. Proposals that focus on literary works originally written in Yiddish, Hebrew, English or French are welcome. For the purposes of this conference, literary works include poetry, drama, short fiction, novels, life writing, graphic narrative and creative non-fiction. The theme of this inaugural conference is deliberately broad, and critical approaches may vary widely.

Canadian Holocaust Literature: Charting the Field will be held at Library and Archives Canada on Sunday, October 28, 2018.

Proposals of 250 words, along with a 50-word biography, should be submitted electronically by **June 15, 2018**, to the three conference organizers:

Rebecca Margolis Rebecca.Margolis@uOttawa.ca

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Ottawa

Seymour Mayne mayne@uottawa.ca

Department of English, University of Ottawa

Ruth Panofsky panofsky@ryerson.ca

Department of English, Ryerson University

University of Ottawa's Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program presents

Canadian Responses to the Holocaust

A fascinating course that examines at the diversity of responses to the Nazi Holocaust from World War II to the present: history, survivor testimony, memoirs, film, literature, education, theology and others.

May 1-June 11, 2018

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00-1:00

The course is open to all university students (3 credits) as well as to members of the community, who can register as auditors (no credits).

*For more information, please email the instructor, Prof. Margolis, at Rebecca.Margolis@uOttawa.ca
Or call 613-562-5800 x2955*





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

c/o DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
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ACJS AFFILIATED SOCIETIES & INSTITUTIONS (2016-2017)

(Asterisks denote institutional members)

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

(les astérisques indiquent les membres institutionnels)

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