



# ACJS BULLETIN

## President's Message

Dear members and friends of the ACJS,

Our recent annual conference in Fredericton (May 29-31) was another great success. Although smaller than some of our conferences in terms of numbers of attendees, those who made their way out east were rewarded by papers of high quality, the attractive University of New Brunswick campus, and a friendly maritime city.

It was an honour for me to present the *Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award* to Marcia Koven. Koven founded the St. John Jewish Historical Museum, a distinguished institution of great importance for the perpetuation of the study of Canadian Jewish history. Koven was born in 1926 and throughout her life has been devoted to the Canadian Jewish community, most notably its preservation and teaching its history through the museum. Koven's museum, opened in 1986, remains the only Jewish museum in Atlantic Canada. Koven travelled to our conference from her home in Saint John, New Brunswick, to receive the award in person.

Beginning with our 2011 conference, our annual "best student paper" award was renamed the Marcia Koven Award. Two students shared the award and the cash prize this year. Adara Goldberg, a Ph.D. candidate at Clark University, gave a paper entitled "Left in the West: Orphaned Holocaust Survivors in Western Canada." The co-winner was Gary Smolyansky, an M.A. student at York University, who gave a paper entitled "Class, Identity and Ethnicity in Russian-speaking Jewish Communities in Post-WWII Canada." Congratulations for delivering these excellent papers!

As I reported in the last bulletin, between August 1940 and June 1941 approximately

700 Jewish male refugees, most from Austria and Germany, were held in an internment camp some 22 miles east of Fredericton, New Brunswick. The town of Minto, New Brunswick, houses a very interesting museum with artifacts of this internment camp. ACJS conference delegates had the opportunity to take a private tour of this museum, led by museum curator Ed Caissie. Please see the article about the museum in this bulletin written by Holocaust historian Paula Draper.

Planning for our next annual conference is well underway. It will be held at Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo.

Due to Shavuot, we will be holding our conference mid-week, Wednesday to Friday morning. The dates are May 30 to June 1, 2012.

Please see a general Call for Papers in this bulletin and on our website and send your proposal to our program chair, Professor Rebecca Margolis.

Wishing you a happy Chanukah,

Randal F. Schnoor



DR. RANDAL F. SCHNOOR

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## About Us

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies/l' Association des études juives canadiennes was founded in 1976 as the Canadian Jewish Historical Society/Société d'histoire juive canadienne. Its goal is to encourage scholarly research in Canadian Jewish history, life and culture through academic disciplines.

It is a national association with headquarters in Montreal and is affiliated with historical organizations and institutions throughout Canada.

This newsletter is written for organizations and individuals with a particular interest in Canadian Jewish studies.

Comments, news, announcements, and reviews can be emailed to Susan Landau-Chark at [sjlandauchark@gmail.com](mailto:sjlandauchark@gmail.com).

The ACJS website:  
[www.acjs-aejc.ca](http://www.acjs-aejc.ca).

### President

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## Membership Renewal & Bulletin Delivery

**ALL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS  
TO THE ASSOCIATION  
CAN NOW BE MADE ONLINE USING PAYPAL.  
SIMPLY GO TO [WWW.ACJS-AEJC.CA](http://WWW.ACJS-AEJC.CA) TO RENEW.**

### ALSO NOTE...

In autumn 2011 you will be asked if you still wish to receive a hard copy by mail. In spring 2012, the hard copy will be sent only to those checking the appropriate box.

Bulletins received by email will be in colour, whereas, due to costs, the mailed hard copies will continue to be in black and white.

To notify us of your preference, kindly send a brief note to [sbrodt@cjccc.ca](mailto:sbrodt@cjccc.ca).

**THANK YOU** to the following institutions for their support of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies: **Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies; Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies** (York University); **University of Toronto Centre for Jewish Studies**; and **Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program** (University of Ottawa).



מרכז למדעי היהדות  
Centre for Jewish Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

# The New Brunswick Internment Camp Museum

by Paula Draper

**B**etween August 13, 1940, and June 21, 1941, some 700 men, mostly Jewish refugees from Austria and Germany, were interned in Camp “B,” an out-of-the-way Depression unemployment relief camp in New Brunswick. It was located in dense bush, 22 miles east of Fredericton. Among the prisoners were teens and sixty-year-olds, orthodox Jews and Jews only by Nazi racial definition. There were yeshiva students, businessmen, artists, labourers and scientists. Along with the 1,500 other refugees who arrived in the summer of 1940 labelled as “enemy aliens,” they posed an enigma to government, the military and the Canadian Jewish community. The refugees were stuck behind barbed wire in a land that was fighting their mortal enemy and yet seemed blinded by a bizarre combination of bureaucracy and antisemitism to the reality of their plight. They languished in

the camps, attempting to use their time wisely while struggling to regain their freedom.

During our ACJS annual meetings at the University of New Brunswick, several members visited the

original site of

the camp and the museum that commemorates this unusual piece of Canadian Holocaust history. Our very gracious guide was Ed Caissie, a local high school teacher who has nursed this little museum from inception into the only institution commemorating the history of internment camps in Canada. Ed grew up in the area and was aware of the camp and a bit of its history. After the Jewish “enemy aliens” were moved from the Maritimes, the camp housed prisoners of war, German and Italian merchant marines, Canadian fascists and anti-war activists. One was Camille Houde, the former mayor of Montreal. During its five years, many New Brunswickers worked in the camp, and Ed was able to collect artifacts and stories from both inside and outside the barbed wire.

The origins of the museum grew from Ed’s love of



history and archaeology and his work with at-risk students. Digging with picks and shovels, they uncovered kitchenware and other articles buried within the perimeter of the camp site. They mapped out and built a scale model of the 58-acre camp (15 acres were the prison compound) and its 52 buildings. Then Ed spent his vacations travelling around the Maritimes and speaking to local groups about the camp. Over the years he has collected some six hundred artifacts from former internees and from families who had members who worked as camp guards, camp administrators and suppliers. Although most of the items are linked to the prisoners who followed the refugees, the intricate ships in bottles, carved boxes, furniture, rusted kitchen utensils, prisoner newspapers and letters paint a vivid picture of camp life.

We also visited the site of the camp, which has markers describing the locations of the buildings and some remaining concrete foundations. Wandering through the forest, swarmed by mosquitoes, our little gang of avid Canadian Jewish academics could well imagine how uncomfortable and isolated the interned refugees must have felt during that year of incarceration.

The Museum operates without government support, yet it has become a magnet for students in the Maritimes who come to learn about this uniquely Canadian story. Ed devotes much of his tour to teaching about the Holocaust and how the Jewish internees found themselves interned in England and sent to Canada as prisoners of war. We are immensely grateful to Ed Caissie for his kindness to us and the reminder of how committed individuals can bring history alive in our communities. ■



Ed Caissie (far right) speaking with Frank Bialystok, Adara Goldberg and Randal Schnoor.

# CALL FOR PAPERS



**THE ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES (ACJS)** will be holding its 36th Annual Conference May 30-June 1, 2012, at Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo as part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The conference provides a platform for original scholarly research in Canadian Jewish history, life and culture.

Individuals are invited to send proposals for learned paper presentations twenty minutes in length. Potential presenters are asked to submit a paper proposal by December 15, 2011.

The paper proposal should comprise a 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. It should also include a bibliography of relevant sources. The abstract should be sent as a .doc or .rtf attachment, double-spaced in Times New Roman font, with the paper title clearly indicated at the top. The name, affiliation, address, telephone number and e-mail of the potential presenter as well as the title of the proposed paper should be located in the body of the e-mail only (and not in the attached abstract).

All proposals will receive anonymous peer review, after which point communication with presenters will occur by February 1, 2012. All presenters must be paid 2012 members of ACJS at the time that proposals are submitted. Proposals from individuals who are not 2012 members of ACJS will not be reviewed. Membership information for ACJS can be found on our website: [www.acjs-aejc.ca/membership.html](http://www.acjs-aejc.ca/membership.html).

Partial financial support to defray travel and accommodations costs is available for presenters who have been members of the ACJS for at least one full calendar year prior to January 2012 (i.e. presenters must be in good standing for both 2011 and 2012 to be eligible for support). University students are exempt from this requirement and are also eligible for additional top-up support. In all cases, because ACJS support funds are limited, presenters, including students, are expected to apply first to their host institutions for whatever funds may be available to them locally. Applications for financial support, which will be sent to eligible presenters along with the notice of acceptance of their paper proposal, will be due the first week of March, with results to be communicated by the end of March.

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

As the ACJS annual conference is part of the larger national conference body called the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, ACJS conference participants whose paper proposals have been accepted must register in advance for the Congress by paying the required fees for both the general Congress registration and the ACJS conference registration. Early-bird registration rates are available before April 1, 2012. Participants will receive details on registration from the Program Chair and are also invited to consult the Congress website for details: [www.congress2012.ca](http://www.congress2012.ca). Please note that presentations from individuals who have not pre-registered for the Congress and ACJS Conference will not be included in the Conference Program.

Please e-mail proposals to Prof. Rebecca Margolis, Program Chair, [rmargoli@uottawa.ca](mailto:rmargoli@uottawa.ca).





## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Submissions are invited for an online periodical **WOMEN IN JUDAISM: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL**

The journal is published exclusively on the Internet as a forum for scholarly debate on gender-related issues in Judaism. The ultimate aim of the journal is to promote the reconceptualization of the study of Judaism by acknowledging and incorporating the roles played by women and by encouraging the development of alternative research paradigms. It is particularly intended to advance critical analysis of gender inequalities within Jewish religion, history, culture and society, both ancient and modern. The journal does not promote a fixed ideology, and welcomes a variety of approaches. The material may be cross-methodological or interdisciplinary.

**Articles, essays, book reviews, short notes and bibliographies from all disciplines in the humanities and social sciences are welcome. Submissions for the fall and spring issues are concurrently accepted and should be made by email or by regular mail to:**

Dr. Dina Ripsman Eylon, Editor-in-Chief  
*Women in Judaism: A Multidisciplinary Journal*  
1136-3 Centre Street, Suite 246  
Thornhill, ON L4J 3M8 Canada  
Email: [dina.eylon@utoronto.ca](mailto:dina.eylon@utoronto.ca)  
<http://www.womeninjudaism.org>

We are also seeking book reviewers. A complete list of books is available in our Review Books Received section, which is updated periodically. For further information and guidelines for contributors, please consult our web site or write to the Editor-in-Chief.



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

#### Winter 2012

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

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

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

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

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

Information:  
Prof. Rebecca Margolis [rmargoli@uottawa.ca](mailto:rmargoli@uottawa.ca); Prof. Seymour Mayne [mayne@uottawa.ca](mailto:mayne@uottawa.ca)  
[www.vered.uottawa.ca](http://www.vered.uottawa.ca)

## Members' and Affiliated Societies' Activities

### Concordia University Centre for Oral History

Max Beer, affiliated with the CURA project (Concordia University Centre for Oral History), shared his experiences attending the 2011 Oral History Association annual meeting,



which took place October 11-16 in Denver. The theme of the conference was "Memories of Conflict and Disaster: Oral History and the Politics of Truth, Trauma, and

Reconciliation," and Max's presentation was entitled "Postwar: Holocaust Survivors and the Montreal Jewish Community."

Montreal (as students of Canadian Jewish history are well aware) was the main port of entry for survivors coming to Canada. In fact, Montreal at one time had the second largest population of Holocaust survivors in North America, surpassed only by New York City.

Max's paper focused on these refugees after the war. It looked at their lives in the DP (displaced persons) camps and their eventual reception by and integration into the local Jewish community in Montreal.

He conducted interviews with survivors and members of the Jewish community who remember the arrival of the immigrants in the late 1940s and early 1950s. He also presented a short video that will eventually form part of a larger documentary feature on this subject.

At that time Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) was the authoritative body representing Montreal Jewry; thus Max also addressed the aid that CJC gave to the survivors. His research addresses the indifference and hostility that these survivors experienced both from Montreal's non-Jewish community and from members within the Montreal Jewish community.

The presentation provoked a good deal of discussion. Many in the audience were surprised that the Holocaust was barely mentioned in the 1940s and 1950s.

Others were taken aback by the video as some survivors bitterly told that no one ever asked them about their horrific experiences in Europe during the war. Some members of the Montreal community who remember the arrival of these immigrants confirmed this attitude and spoke of the lack of compassion and sympathy shown by the local Jewish community to the refugees.

Kol hakavod, Max - your paper sounds fascinating.

### Canadian Jewish Heritage Network

As a result of the Young Canada Works grant received from Canadian Heritage this summer, the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives has been able to transfer onto the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network platform at [www.cjhn.ca](http://www.cjhn.ca) most of the Shaar Hashomayim Museum and Archives items previously displayed on the Canadian Jewish Virtual Museum and Archives website.



As two of the major Montreal organizations involved in Canadian Jewish historical research, the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives and the Jewish Public Library Archives launched the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network in June 2011. The major funding for this project came to the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee from the Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation. Ongoing support is being provided by the Alex Dworkin Foundation for Jewish Archives through the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal.

Our goal of making the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network a shared entry point to the collections of partner institutions is beginning to become a reality. We are currently involved in discussions with two additional potential partners and are poised to expand our horizons beyond Montreal.

We hope you will come to explore the Shaar Museum collection and return often to watch us grow!

### Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta

Debby Shocter of JAHSENA, the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, recently returned from an



expedition to Pine Lake, in central Alberta, to investigate the remains of a lost Jewish colony of homesteaders. She was accompanied by Chevra Kadisha board member David Marcus and by former Red Deer City archivist, now museum

curator, Michael Dawe. Farmer Jim Vincent and his son Stephen took the group on a tour of the remains of the settlers' dugouts, graves and cabins, all of which lie within a four-square kilometre radius on the shores of Blanck's Lake, near Pine Lake, Alberta, which was named after the community's leader, Rabbi Abraham Blanck (or Blank). Rabbi Blank and about 50 other settlers arrived in the area in 1892, funded by the Russo-Jewish Colonization Association. After several harsh winters in the area, during which quite a few members purportedly starved to death due to harsh conditions, they abandoned the colony and headed for Hirsch, Saskatchewan, in 1895. There is evidence that they survived there for some time, and some may have eventually made it to Winnipeg.

Once research is completed, these organizations hope to erect some sort of memorial to the settlers, who formed the first Jewish colony and were the second Jews to arrive in Alberta after Jacob Diamond came to Calgary in 1888.

Sign on to Facebook and follow the progress of this investigation on our page by "Liking" Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta.

#### The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta



At its 21st Annual General Meeting on October 24, the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta (JHSSA) honoured the living veterans of World War II of southern Alberta. Over 130 people attended, and about a dozen veterans were present.

The evening included a talk by Dr. David Bercuson about the Jewish contribution to Canada's war effort and by Mr. Val Rimer, Commander, Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Post #2, Calgary, about his organization's contributions to the local community. An audio-visual presentation featured the military contributions of all those Jewish World War II veterans who currently live in the region.

On November 1, 2011, JHSSA unveiled an historic plaque which it commissioned to mark the original site of Calgary's first synagogue, Congregation House of Jacob, which opened for services in September 1911. The building was demolished in 1968 and so the plaque will be placed in Bow Valley College, which now occupies the site. Mayor Nenshi was the guest speaker at this event. ■



Jonathan Joffe (left), great-grandson of Jacob Diamond, Calgary's first Jewish citizen and synagogue founder, and Mayor Naheed Nenshi unveiling the historic plaque.



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

[www.jewishfiction.net](http://www.jewishfiction.net)

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

Our fifth issue (Vol. 2, No. 1) contains original work by:

**Aharon Appelfeld**  
**Shira Gorshman**  
**Judith Katzir**  
**Fred Skolnik**  
**Daniella Carmi**  
and more...

**Our sixth issue will be published in  
December 2011**

*Jewish Fiction.net* is currently inviting submissions for our seventh issue, coming out in spring 2012. For more details, please visit our website or write [submissions@jewishfiction.net](mailto:submissions@jewishfiction.net).

# DEMANDE DE COMMUNICATIONS



L'ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDES JUIVES CANADIENNES (AÉJC) tiendra sa 36e réunion annuelle du 30 mai au 1er juin 2012 à l'Université Wilfrid Laurier et l'Université de Waterloo en collaboration avec la Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines. Le congrès sert à présenter les nouvelles recherches relatives à l'histoire, la vie et la culture de la communauté canadienne juive.

Celles et ceux qui désirent faire une communication de 20 minutes touchant un aspect de la culture canadienne juive sont priés de soumettre une proposition de communication détaillée (400 mots) avant le 15 décembre 2011.

La proposition, qui sera évaluée dans l'anonymat, doit comprendre le thème principal de la communication ainsi que les références bibliographiques. Les membres du comité communiqueront avec les participants avant le 1er février 2012. Tous les conférenciers doivent être membres de l'AÉJC en 2012 lorsque les propositions seront soumises. Les propositions provenant des personnes qui ne sont pas membres de l'AÉJC en 2012 ne seront pas considérées. Des informations sur l'adhésion à l'AÉJC sont disponibles sur notre site web : [www.acjs-aejc.ca/membership.html](http://www.acjs-aejc.ca/membership.html).

De l'aide financière pour défrayer partiellement le coût du voyage est disponible pour tous les conférenciers qui sont membres de l'AÉJC depuis au moins un an (cette condition ne s'applique pas aux étudiants du 1er, 2e ou 3e cycle). La demande d'aide financière doit être soumise au début du mois de mars.

Le prix Marcia Koven, lequel comprend une récompense en argent, sera décerné à la meilleure communication présentée par un étudiant lors de la conférence. La présentation orale de la communication sera évaluée en fonction de sa valeur scientifique et de sa contribution au domaine des études juives canadiennes.

Étant donné que la conférence annuelle de l'AÉJC fait partie du Congrès des sciences humaines, tous les participants de la conférence de l'AÉJC doivent s'inscrire à l'avance à ce congrès. Ils doivent payer les frais d'inscription générale du Congrès ainsi que le frais de conférence de l'AÉJC. L'inscription à tarif préférentiel est disponible avant le 1er avril 2012. Pour de plus amples informations, consultez le site web [www.congress2012.ca](http://www.congress2012.ca). Les présentations des personnes qui ne se sont pas inscrites au Congrès et à la Conférence ne seront pas incluses dans le programme du conférence.

Veuillez faire parvenir vos projets de communication à Rebecca Margolis, coordonnatrice, par courriel ([rmargoli@uottawa.ca](mailto:rmargoli@uottawa.ca)).



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

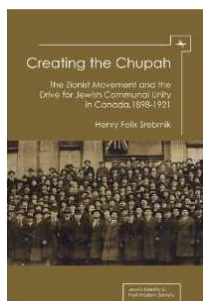


**IRA ROBINSON** edited a special number of the journal *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses*: September 2011; 40 (3): "Jews and Judaism in Twentieth-Century Montreal." Following is the table of contents.

- Ira Robinson, "Introduction to Special Issue: Jews and Judaism in Twentieth-Century Montreal."  
 Ira Robinson, "'The Other Side of the Coin': The Anatomy of a Public Controversy in the Montreal Jewish Community, 1931."  
 Richard Menkis, "Jewish Communal Identity at the Crossroads: Early Jewish Responses to Canadian Multiculturalism, 1963-1965."  
 Yolande Cohen and Linda Guerry, "Mariages et parcours migratoires : Juifs nés au Maroc et mariés à la Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue de Montréal (1969—1981)."  
 Norma Baumel Joseph, "Civil Jurisdiction and Religious Accord: *Brucker v. Marcovitz* in the Supreme Court of Canada."  
 Julien Bauer, "Yom Hashoah, Jour commémoratif de l'Holocauste, dans le calendrier juif canadien."  
 Steven Lapidus, "The Problem of the Modern Orthodox Rabbinate: Montreal's Vaad Harabonim at Mid-Century."  
 Rebecca Margolis, "HipHopKhasene: A Marriage between Hip Hop and Klezmer."

<http://sir.sagepub.com/content/current>

**SANDRA SINGER**'s article on J.J. Steinfeld's short fiction "Acting Out Justice in J.J. Steinfeld's 'Courtroom Dramas'" has been published in *Canadian Ethnic Studies* 41 nos. 1 and 2 (2009): 155-72. See link: [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/canadian\\_ethnic\\_studies/toc/ces.41.1-2.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/canadian_ethnic_studies/toc/ces.41.1-2.html).



**HENRY SREBRNIK**, a professor in the Department of Political Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, has published *Creating the Chupah: The Zionist Movement and the Drive for Jewish Communal Unity in Canada, 1898-1921* (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2011).

The book assesses the role of Canadian Zionist organizations in the

drive for communal unity within Canadian Jewry in the first two decades of the twentieth century. Two strands of Zionism, represented respectively by the Federation of Zionist Societies of Canada and Poale Zion, were often in conflicts that reflected greater community disputes. The book also describes Zionist activities within the larger spectrum of Canadian Jewish life. Montreal was at the time the "capital" of Canadian Jewry, but the Jewish communities of Toronto and Winnipeg also played a significant role in these events.



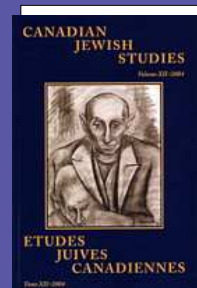
Mazel tov to **SARA FERDMAN TAUBEN** on the publication of *Traces of the Past: Montreal's Early Synagogues*.

Drawn from her excellent Master's thesis (a great resource on the early synagogues of Montreal), the book gives the locations of Montreal's early synagogues, tracked down by Sara, and provides content and context to the development of Montreal's Jewish community from the 1880s until 1945. ■

*Please see page 10 for other publications*

## Looking for reviewers for *Canadian Jewish Studies*

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



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

Coming soon from Ashgate Publishing...

## Losing Site

Architecture, Memory and Place

Shelley Hornstein, York University, Toronto, Canada

'In *Losing Site* Hornstein takes us on a dizzying pilgrimage from the Guggenheim to Google Earth, from Toronto to Tel Aviv, showing along the way how architecture, place, and memory work together in dynamic interplay. Hornstein's themes are as wide-ranging as the places she explores: nationhood and nationalism, war and demolition, starchitecture and everyday life. The book offers a unique look at how our fast-paced, technology-driven lives have re-shaped travel and tourism.'

Annamarie Adams, McGill University, Canada

As Ruskin suggests in his *Seven Lamps of Architecture*: 'We may live within Architecture, and worship without her, but we cannot remember and without her.' We remember best when we experience an event in a place. But what happens when we leave that place, or that place no longer exists? This book addresses the relationship between memory and place and asks how architecture captures and triggers memory. It explores how architecture exists as a physical entity and how it registers as a place that come to remember beyond the physical site itself.

It questions what architecture is in the broadest sense, assuming that it is not simply buildings. Rather, architecture is considered to be the mapping of physical, mental or emotional space - as we actively we are all architects in some measure - as we organize and select pathways and markers within space - is central to this book's premise. Each chapter provides a different example of the manifold ways in which the physical place of architecture is curated

by the architecture in our 'mental' space: our imaginary toolbox when we think of a place and look at a photograph, or visit a site and describe it later or send a postcard.

By connecting architecture with other disciplines such as geography, visual culture, sociology, and urban studies, as well as the fine and performing arts, this book puts forward the idea that a conversation about architecture is not exclusively about formal, isolated buildings, but instead must be deepened and broadened as spatialized visualizations and experiences of place.

**Contents:** Preface; Introduction; losing site; Marking site; Walter Benjamin was here; Memorializing site: on the grounds of history; Transporting site: postcards of Israel and nation-building; Destroying site: houses and objects, inside out; Curating site: museums, itineraries and networks beyond borders; Erasing site: spies on the other side of the full moon; Conclusion: finding site; Bibliography; Index.

Includes c.17 b&w illustrations

Sample pages for published titles are available to view online at: [www.ashgate.com](http://www.ashgate.com)

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All online orders receive a discount

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Bookpoint Ltd, Ashgate Publishing Direct Sales,  
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Email: [ashgate@bookpoint.co.uk](mailto:ashgate@bookpoint.co.uk)

**ASHGATE**  
[www.ashgate.com](http://www.ashgate.com)



August 2011  
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Hardback  
978-1-4094-0871-0  
£50.00/US\$69.95



Les Presses de l'Université d'Ottawa  
University of Ottawa Press

## Ricochet

Word Sonnets – Sonnets d'un mot

By Seymour Mayne  
Translated by Sabine Huynh

Fourteen lines, fourteen words – one poem.

*Ricochet* is a bilingual collection of word sonnets by one of the chief innovators of the form, Seymour Mayne. It includes three sequences of pithy and evocative poems that encapsulate moments of sharp perception while also drawing attention to instances of humour that suddenly appear in daily life.

Concise and visual in effect, word sonnets are fourteen line poems, with one word per line. Frequently allusive and imagistic, they can also be irreverent and playful. While informed by other short poetry forms such as the Haiku, Mayne's word sonnets are deeply influenced by the Talmudic tradition of maxims, proverbs and images that instruct and inform everyday life.

Presented with an excellent translation of the poems into French, *Ricochet* is a unique volume that showcases this innovative new form. The collection also includes a short preface by the poet and an introductory essay by the translator on the challenges of translating word sonnets.

Seymour Mayne is the author, editor or translator of more than fifty books and monographs. His writings have been translated into many languages, including French, German, Hebrew, Polish, Russian, and Spanish. His latest collections include *Light Industry* (Mosaic Press, 2000), *Ricochet: Word Sonnets* (Mosaic Press, 2004), *September Rain* (Mosaic Press, 2005) and *Les pluies de septembre* (Éditions du Noroit, 2008), his selected poems translated into French by Pierre DesRuisseaux. He serves as Professor of Canadian Literature, Canadian Studies, and Creative Writing at the University of Ottawa.

Sabine Huynh is a sociolinguist, translator, novelist, short story writer and poet who writes in both French and English. She has translated Uri Orlev and Richard Berengarten, among others. Her first novel, *La Mer et l'enfant*, will be published in France by Galaade Editions in 2012.

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**Failure's Opposite**  
Listening to A.M. Klein

Edited by  
Norman Ravvin and Sherry Simon

Published by  
McGill-Queen's University Press

*An original look at an admired yet elusive Canadian writer.*

A.M. Klein has remained an enduring but elusive presence in Canadian literary consciousness since his death in 1972. Klein's legacy has been mixed, his literary achievement sometimes overshadowed by his reclusiveness and withdrawal from the literary world.

**Failure's Opposite presents a fresh perspective on Klein's reception and legacy**, exploring why he has remained a compelling figure for critics and readers. His experimentalism drew upon strong traditions and fluency in several languages—English, French, Yiddish and Hebrew—allowing him to develop a multilingual, modernist Jewish voice that is a touchstone for understanding Canada's multicultural identity. His struggle with the emotional and historical dimensions of diaspora is of considerable importance throughout his work and is investigated through the lenses of translation, voice, and his relationship to other Jewish writers. Contributors also re-evaluate Klein's connection to Montreal and the original ways in which he capture the atmosphere of his "jargoning city."

**Failure's Opposite reflects the many ways A.M. Klein is being remade in the twenty-first century**, both as bridge to the past and a model for contemporary critical and creative work in Canadian literature.

**Norman Ravvin**, chair of the Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies, is a fiction and non-fiction writer and editor. His books include *A House of Words: Jewish Writing, Identity and Memory*.

**Sherry Simon** is the author of numerous books, including *Translating Montreal: Episodes in the Life of a Divided City*. She teaches in the French Studies Department at Concordia University in Montreal.

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Norman Ravvin's story collection *Sex, Slyserscrapers, and Standard Yiddish* won the K.M. Hunter Emerging Artist Award. His novel *Café Westens* won the Alberta Multiculturalism New Fiction Award. He is also the author of *Hidden Canada: An Intimate Travelogue* and the editor of *Not Quite Mainstream: Canadian Jewish Short Stories*. He lives with his wife and family in Montreal, where he teaches and writes.

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## ACJS 2011 Annual Conference Report (Fredericton, New Brunswick)

By Garry Smolyansky

The 35th annual conference of the Association for Canadian Studies took place in Fredericton at the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University. We thank the organizers of the conference for their hard work and labour in planning another successful event.

The Conference commenced on May 29 with an evening program. A movie screening on the topic of the Saint John Jewish community started things off on a high note. Following that, the Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award was given to **Marcia Koven**, founder of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum in Saint John, N.B.

The audience was then treated to a fascinating CBC documentary about wartime internment from the series *Land and Sea*.

The film provided much-needed background information and context for a lecture by **Dr. Paula Draper** on Jews in internment camps. Draper, a renowned Canadian Holocaust historian, gave a lecture titled “Jewish ‘enemy aliens’? A history of Jewish

a Jewish camp as most of its inmates were of Jewish ethnicity. The Jews inside the camp voiced their needs, both cultural and religious, to the local authorities and the government.

The eventual release of these prisoners came when the government realized that they posed no realistic threat to the war effort. However, famed anti-Semite and Minister F.C. Blair stalled their release process as much as he could. Despite his best efforts, all prisoners were eventually released to relatives and community members who sponsored them, and many went on to do very well in their new life in Canada.

During the first official session of the conference the following morning, **Professor Frank Bialystok** chaired a panel on case studies in preserving Canada’s Jewish heritage.

First up to the podium was **Sandra Weizman**, one of the key organizers of the “The little synagogue on the Prairie project” in Calgary. Using a photo essay, she



Remnants of prison life found at Camp B.

refugees interned in New Brunswick: 1940-1941.”

She focused on Camp B and its uniqueness. She spoke about the fact that the Allies began to suspect that many of the refugees they had accepted were spies for the Axis countries. They interned many, and 2,284 were transferred to Canada during the war. The Canadian government truly believed that Jews from Germanic-speaking areas were Nazi sympathizers. Camp B became



Sandra Weizman presenting photo essay.

spoke about a project to rebuild a synagogue used by a Jewish agricultural colony community in the West



between 1910-1926. The colony had 77 residents, mostly Romanian and Ukrainian Jews. The synagogue was lost for a long time, but then was searched out and discovered by the little synagogue society. The Calgary Jewish community raised one million dollars to buy, restore and move the building to Heritage Park. The attraction drew a crowd of 2,000 spectators for the Torah dedication. It has been the most visited building in the park since its addition to the park.

After overcoming travel troubles, **Professor Barry Stiefel** took the stand and gave a talk about Jewish heritage along the U.S.-Canadian borderlands. His lecture, titled "Whose heritage is Fort Michilimackinac?"



Fort Michilimackinac

explored the disputed historical structure. He tried to determine if it was a Canadian or American heritage site. To complicate matters, the fort had an important place in North American Jewish history, with traders

such as Ezekiel Solomon, Jacob Franks, Chapman Abraham and David Solomon frequenting it. Jewish heritage across the borderlands is indeed a complicated matter, and Barry's talk demonstrated this. He also noted that it is an understudied discipline and has very few resources to draw from, but is indeed worth exploring.

Following lunch, both delegates and presenters could not wait to begin the second session, titled "New directions in Canadian Jewish studies." **Professor Randal Schnoor** chaired this session and called upon



Frank Bialystok (left) during his presentation. Clockwise: Norm Ravvin, Nanette Norris, Barry Stiefel, Pierre Anctil, Sandra Weizman, Hernan Tesler-Mabe and Adara Goldberg.

**Professor Frank Bialystok** to get things started.

His talk focused on the idea of reconsidering the writing of the history of the Jews in Canada. He argued that the history of Jews in Canada needed to be both updated and diversified. Jews, according to him, have many unique characteristics that make them a fascinating group to study.

Frank echoed the need for written comprehensive Jewish history that would be post-WWII and would emphasize social and cultural themes. This would enable a more thorough comparative analysis of Canadian Jewish history with its counterparts around the world. The history should also look critically at post-WWII immigration of Jews to Canada. Frank also noted that a history on the rise of the federations and decline of national organizations must be written to examine this historical trend.

*"[T]o do justice to Canadian Jewish history, one must know not only English and French, but also Yiddish."*

While Professor Bialystok gave suggestions on what should be done, **Professor Pierre Anctil** spoke about emerging trends in the writing of Jewish Canadian history. The professor focused on writing and publishing Canadian Jewish history in French. He noted that there was a growing trend toward the publication of Canadian Jewish history in French (including translation from Yiddish into French) over the past 10 years, mostly by non-Jews. He argued that if a Québécois historian tried to write the history of the province and French-Canadian culture in Canada, the Jewish component would be an inseparable part of it, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries.

He also brought forward the idea that to do justice to Canadian Jewish history, one must know not only English and French, but also Yiddish. This was due to the fact that Jews produced massive amounts of print media in Yiddish. It was the third most read and published language in Canada in the last century. Collaboration of historians wishing to write Quebec history must be on two levels: one would be the use of

*Continued from page 13*

four languages to fully understand archival material and print media (English, French, Yiddish and Hebrew) and the second would need to be between Canadian and Québécois historians, as part of the history is exclusively French.

**Professor Norm Ravvin** decided to take a more literary look at the topic with his talk titled “The War and Before: Mainstream Literary Life and the Jews in Canada During the Thirties and Forties.” His lecture focused on the literary scene before and during the Second World War in Canada. He looked at novels, journals, anthologies and French cultural responses.

He argued that in the 1930s and 1940s, the publishing output among Jewish authors was fairly low. Most were young authors who were rebelling against their Victorian predecessors. Poetry by Klein was published in 1936 under the title “New Provinces” and was “Jewishly” themed but also heavily modernist. However, Norm argued that no influential Jewish “anglo” literature in the 1930s or 1940s was published. There were several French-language writers but they were not well known. Professor Ravvin’s talk wrapped up the day.

Following a hearty breakfast, the third panel was underway. Looking at the topic of Canada after the Holocaust, Ph.D. student **Adara Goldberg** took the stage to share her most recent research with the delegates. Her talk, titled “Left in the West: Orphaned Holocaust Survivors in Western Canada,” showcased her work researching the stories of two girls who were orphaned Holocaust survivors. She compared and contrasted their experiences in the West, providing a balanced approach to a story that had both a happy and a sad ending.

She used correspondence both girls had with CJC in order to construct the story of their life out west. Brought over as part of the War Orphans Project as Holocaust survivors, orphans and new immigrants, these urban girls had a hard time adjusting to their new families and rural life. Both dreamed of moving to the big city and hoped CJC would help. However, the organization refused to help them further, stating that their mission was to find the girls good families and help them escape war-torn Europe, and were not concerned with their happiness per se.

Adara provided a balanced, interesting look at the

reality of war orphans in Canada through a comparative essay, part of her larger thesis.

Next up was **Garry Smolyansky**, an enthusiastic undergraduate and a first-time speaker at the conference.

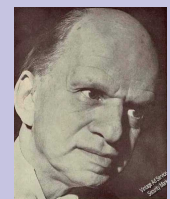


Conference participants enjoying some down time.

He presented a paper about the Russian-speaking Jews of Canada after the Second World War, focusing on different characteristics of this recent immigrant group. He used both primary and secondary sources to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive survey of Jewish identity, life and integration of Russian-speaking Jews in the last forty years in Canada. He provided insight into this under-researched area in Jewish studies and raised some very interesting points.

Continuing on the topic of immigrant contributions to Canadian culture, recent Ph.D. graduate **Dr. Hernan Tesler-Mabe** spoke about the impact of Jewish-German musicians on the Canadian cultural scene. His lecture looked at two important German-Jewish musicians who lived in Canada: Heinz Unger and Helmut Kallmann.

Hernan argued that both artists, although not very famous in the Jewish world but well known in the field of music, expressed and experienced their “Jewishness” through the music they produced and catalogued. Their secular lifestyles and beliefs would support this claim. Their musical contributions were not recognized as “Jewish,” but Hernan argued effectively



Heinz Unger



Helmut Kallmann.  
(Photo courtesy of Library & Archives Canada.)

that they were a manifestation of German-Jewish culture if one were to analyze the subject carefully.

In the long-standing tradition of conducting joint panels with other organizations, the fourth and final session was a combined Canadian Society for Jewish

**“Jews... have many unique characteristics that make them a fascinating group to study.”**

Studies (CSJS) and ACJS group.

Moderated by **Dr. Daniel Moaz** of the CSJS, the participants discussed evolving Jewish community concerns. First up was **Professor Ira Robinson**, who conducted a fascinating and very humorous talk

about the correspondences of two Orthodox rabbis between 1933 and 1958. These two individuals were Rabbi Sheea Herschorn of Montreal and Rabbi Abraham Price of Toronto. Both were regarded as the unofficial “chief” leaders of their communities.

He argued that they tried to cooperate as much as possible in order to keep a unified front. On issues such as divorce, both provinces had different rules. (In Ontario, one could get a civil divorce but in Quebec this was impossible).

He also highlighted the battle of Rabbi Price with CJC, focusing especially on the scandalous topic of creating a unified kosher inspection agency (by CJC) and supplying Loblaws with kosher sliced meat.

Continuing the discussion about kosher sliced meat (but for school lunches) was **Professor Randal Schnoor**. He presented his latest research on the topic of how and why Jewish families make the decision to send their children to Jewish day schools in Toronto.

In a research project he has been carrying out since 2003 with Dr. Alex Pomson, he has analyzed a variety of reasons as to why families send their children to Jewish day and high schools even though the cost of these institutions continues to rise. This phase of his project consisted of 31 interviews (and more to come) of families whose children will be entering Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) as grade 9 students this coming year.

Two important conclusions he has made thus far in

his work were that choosing a Jewish high school was not necessarily rooted in Jewish concerns and the fact that the child was old enough to participate in the decision-making process of where to attend high school, unlike in elementary and middle school, when the child was too young to do so.

The last panelist was **Professor Nanette Norris**. Her talk focused on the analysis and use of the play *Reading Hebron* to look at the modern Israeli-Palestinian question.

Through her discussion she showed that Jews were viewed as both aggressors and victims in the play. According to Nanette, we could learn much from the play, rich in metaphors and imagery, which is so relevant to the issues we are dealing with today in the Middle East.

Thus another wonderful conference came to a close. The organizers of the event had done a marvelous job in putting together three fantastic days of learning and fun.

We greatly look forward to our next conference in Kitchener-Waterloo. ■

## DR. BEN Z. SHEK OBITUARY



**BEN SHEK**, ז"ל, member of the ACJS, passed away on June 26, 2011, in Toronto.

Ben Shek was a professor of French and was well respected as a scholar of Québécois literature. He was also a journalist, a community activist for social justice, and a choir organizer and singer in the Yiddish tradition.

His organizational skills and voice were put to good use in support of the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir; his activism surfaced in his frequent contributions to *Canadian Jewish Outlook* magazine; and his journalistic research and writing skills were evident in the numerous presentations he made at the various ACJS conferences over the years.

May his memory be for a blessing.



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