



Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award conferred on Professor Ira Robinson

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies is very pleased to announce that Professor Ira Robinson of Concordia University in Montreal is the 2013 recipient of the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award.

For over thirty years, Professor Robinson has been a major pillar of and contributor to the teaching and scholarship of Jewish studies in Canada. Throughout this time, his contributions have added to such areas as the history of Jews in Canada, Orthodox Judaism in North America, Hasidism, Judaism and science, and Jewish mysticism.

Of his extensive list of publications, several have been recognized for their outstanding contributions: *The Thought of Maimonides* (1990), *An Everyday Miracle: Yiddish Culture in Montreal* (1990), *Not Written in Stone: Canadian Jews, Constitutions and Constitutionalism in Canada* (2003) and *Rabbis and Their Community: Studies in the Eastern European Orthodox Rabbinate in Montreal, 1896-1930* (2007).

Furthermore, Professor Robinson has been a regular contributor to several academic journals, such as *Studies in Religion, American Jewish History, American Jewish Archives, and Canadian Jewish Studies*. He has also been very active in several academic organizations, such as the ACJS, the Canadian Society for the Study of

Religion, the Association for Jewish Studies and the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies, to name a few. He is also recognized internationally as a dedicated and learned scholar.



As an educator, Ira Robinson has been a consistent and enthusiastic supporter of the promotion of Jewish studies across Canada. Teaching at Concordia University, he is well respected by students and faculty for his contributions to a strong Jewish studies program within the Department of Religion. Students over the years have recognized the value of his knowledge, style, and presentation. He has always welcomed open discussions and provided frequent opportunities for students to express their thoughts and explore specific areas of interest.

As a frequent public speaker, he is recognized for his extensive knowledge of Jewish affairs.

We look forward to presenting the Rosenberg Award to Professor Robinson on June 3, 2013, at our conference in Victoria, B.C. □

AWARD BACKGROUNDER

Annually or from time to time, the ACJS presents an award honouring an individual, group or institution that has contributed significantly to Canadian Jewish studies. In tribute to the scholarship of Louis Rosenberg, as of 2008 the award became known as the "Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award."

Louis Rosenberg was born in Poland in 1893 and educated in England. Upon his arrival in Canada in 1914, he taught at the Tiferes Israel School in Lipton, Saskatchewan, and was field inspector for the Jewish Colonization Association's farm colonies. While in Saskatchewan, he published, under the pseudonym Watt Hugh McCollum, a study of the concentration of wealth in Canada entitled *Who Owns Canada?* (1935, 1947). In 1939, he published his magnum opus on Canadian Jewry, *Canada's Jews* (reprinted 1993). Using census data in a comprehensive and profound fashion, Rosenberg had few peers in the area of the study of Canadian demography. In 1945, Rosenberg became Canadian Jewish Congress's director (and only employee) of the Bureau of Social and Economic Research. His archives are located in both Library and Archives Canada and the CJC Charities Committee National Archives. Rosenberg died in 1987.

(Visit <http://acjs-aejc.ca/awards/#Rosenberg> for more information on ACJS awards.)

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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@yahoo.ca.

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

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PROPOSED SLATE OF ACJS BOARD MEMBERS 2013-2014

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NOTICE TO MEMBERS

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 Janice Rosen at acjssecretary@gmail.com.

ERRATUM

The photo caption on page 7 of the autumn 2012 bulletin was incorrect. It should have read: "Left to right: Sylvia Lustgarten, Bernie and Gilda Katz, Jack Lipinsky, and Susan Landau-Chark."



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).



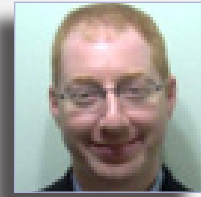
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members and friends of the ACJS,

I hope you have had a chance to take a look at our new association website (see box below). Many have mentioned that they appreciate our fresh new look. Many thanks to Rabbi Arie Chark for generously maintaining our site for the past two years. And thank you to Robin Bergart for coordinating our new site.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming conference in Victoria, British Columbia (Monday to Tuesday, June 3-4, 2013). We are delighted to begin our conference just one day after Congregation Emanu-El of Victoria celebrates its 150th anniversary (it is the oldest synagogue in continuous use in Canada). ACJS delegates in Victoria on June 2 are invited to participate in the celebration.

There will be a parade through Victoria and a ceremony to commemorate the laying of the cornerstone as well as an "open house" following the ceremony. In addition, we hope to hold one evening of our conference in the synagogue.



At our conference, we are delighted to honour Professor Ira Robinson of Concordia University, winner of the 2013 Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award in Canadian Jewish Studies. The ACJS proudly recognizes the exceptional contribution Ira has made to the study of Canadian Jewish life (see page 1 for details).

The preliminary program of the conference is contained in this bulletin and available on our website: <http://www.acjs-aejc.ca/conference/>. Thank you to Rebecca Margolis for her efforts in putting this conference together.

Although it is mentioned below, I would like to congratulate Dr. David Koffman on his new faculty position at York University (I look forward to working with you) and to Professor Morton Weinfeld on winning the prestigious Marshall Sklare Award for his outstanding scholarly contribution to the social scientific study of Jewry.

Dr. Randal F. Schnoor

ACJS/AEJC Website Updated

The ACJS/AEJC launched a new website this year.

Many thanks to Rabbi Arie Chark for generously maintaining our site for the past two years.

We hope this site will become a focal point for the Association, attract new and returning members, and make it easy to find up-to-date information about the Association and its publications and annual conference.

On a rotating basis, we will feature different images from Canadian Jewish history and life. Perhaps they will inspire your own research!

Please contact Robin Bergart at rbergart@uoguelph.ca to send your feedback about the website. She invites your suggestions for changes, updates, and new content. She also welcomes your eagle eye to spot any errors.



Mazal Tov!



Professor **Morton Weinfeld** of McGill University has won the 2013 Marshall Sklare Award.

The Sklare Award is an annual honor of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry (ASSJ) which seeks to recognize "a senior scholar who has made a significant scholarly contribution to the social scientific study of Jewry." Weinfeld will give his Sklare scholarly address at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in Boston in December 2013.

Kudos and mazal tov to Dr. **David Koffman**, who has just been accepted for an assistant professorship in the Department of History at York University in Toronto. Upon tenure, David will become the J. Richard Shiff Chair for the Study of Canadian Jewry.





**ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CONGRESS FOR HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR JEWISH STUDIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CONGRESS FOR HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**University of Victoria
June 3-4, 2013**

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

MONDAY, JUNE 3

ACJS ROOM LOCATION: McPHERSON LIBRARY 210

CSJS ROOM LOCATION: McPHERSON LIBRARY 219

**8:30-10:00 AM: Annual General Meeting, Association
for Canadian Jewish Studies**

10:00-10:30 AM: Coffee break

**10:30 AM-12:00 PM: ACJS session 1 | Issues in
Canadian Holocaust Studies**

Zelda Abramson (Acadia University): Things Aren't Always What They Appear to Be: Stories of Women Holocaust Survivors Settling in Montreal

Adara Goldberg (Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre): Losing their Religion: Converts and Apostates After the Holocaust

Jason Chalmers (University of Ottawa): Canada and the Expansion of Holocaust Memory: Three Cases
Chair: **Richard Menkis** (University of British Columbia)

**10:30 AM-12:00 PM: CSJS session 1 | Zionism and
Holocaust Studies**

Celia Rothenberg (McMaster University): Israel-lite: A New Kind of Zionism at an American Jewish Summer Camp

Aviva Atlani (University of Western Ontario): Fictional Yiddish Characters in a Holocaust and Post-Holocaust Setting

Chelsea Hemmings (Concordia University): The Bund: Its Historical Significance and Context
Chair: **Ira Robinson**, CSJS President (Concordia University)

12:00-1:30 PM: Lunch break

**1:30-3:30 PM: ACJS session 2 | From I-witness to
Community Activist: Canadian Perspectives on**

**the University of Victoria I-witness Holocaust Field
School**

Helga Thorson (University of Victoria): The "I" in I-witnessing: Personal Commitment and Change

Charlotte Schallié (University of Victoria): Embracing Challenges and Contradictions: The Field School in Action

Sarah Jane Kerr-Lapsley (University of British Columbia): Comparing the Experience of the March of the Living and the I-witness Field School

Amy Coté (University of Victoria): Analyzing Stories: Second Generation Canadian Jewish Writers and the Holocaust

Jason Michaud (University of Victoria): Preserving Stories: Community Engagement Through the "Local Stories and Experiences of the Holocaust" Archival Project

Chair: TBA

**1:30-3:00 PM: CSJS session 2 | Jews in Europe and
Asia**

Jordana de Bloeme (York University): 'This Is Our Home That We Built, and Our Land': The Vilna Educational Society and Cultural Autonomy for a "New" Jewish Future

Francisco Peña (University of British Columbia, Okanagan): Cain and the Jews in Alfonso X of Castille's General Estoria

Albert Kaganovitch (University of Manitoba): Forced Alliance: Russian Local Authorities and Jewish Elite in a Belorussian Town

Chair: TBA

3:30-3:45 PM: Break

**3:45-4:45 PM: ACJS session 3 | Canadian Jewish
Identities**

Emily Lam (McGill University): From the Old World to

the New: Distinctive Dimensions of Place and Their Influence on the Identity and Authenticity of Klezmer Music in Early Twentieth-Century Jewish Montreal

Maxa Sawyer (York University): The Voices of Birthright Israel: Going Beyond the Jewish Homeland Narrative to Create a Realistic Relationship Between the Jewish Canadian Diaspora and Israel
Chair: **Randal Schnoor** (York University)

3:45-4:45 PM: CSJS session 3 | Early Jewish Narrative

Daniel Maoz (Concordia University): 'We've Got Him Cornered in the Churchyard': Saving Jesus the Jew from Christian Traditions

Robert Daum (University of British Columbia, Vancouver School of Theology): Rabbinic Biography: Law and Story in the Case of Zechariah ben Hakatsav
Chair: TBA

7:00 PM: ACJS evening program (free of charge)

LOCATION: 5447 CORNETT A125

Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award to be presented to Prof. Ira Robinson, Concordia University

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

ACJS ROOM LOCATION: MCPHERSON LIBRARY 210

CSJS ROOM LOCATION: MCPHERSON LIBRARY 219

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

10:00-10:30 AM: Coffee break

10:30-12:00 PM: ACJS session 4 | Canadian Jewish Histories

Ira Robinson (Concordia University): Finding a Rabbi for Quebec City: The Interplay Between an American Rabbinate and a Canadian Congregation

Lillooet Nordlinger McDonnell (Independent researcher): Lumbering into Canada: Leon Koerner and Jewish Assimilation in British Columbia, 1939-1972

Peter Usher (Independent researcher): Jews and the Military in Canada

Chair: **Faith Jones** (University of British Columbia)

10:30 AM-12:00 PM: CSJS session 4 | Jewish Literature and Culture

Shana Mauer (Hebrew University): A Reconsideration of Jewish Power in Mordecai Richler's Novels

Phil Gold (University of Toronto, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education): American Jews and the Comic

Industry: It's Nothing to Laugh At

Sivane Hirsch (Université de Montréal): Learning about Quebec's Jewish Community's History, Culture and Religion: Curriculum and Teachers' Perception
Chair: TBA

12:00-1:30 PM: Lunch break

1:30-3:30 PM: ACJS session 5 | Roundtable: Problems of the Personal

Janice Rosen (Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives)

Jennifer Yuhasz (Jewish Museum and Archives of British Columbia)

Stephanie Tara Schwartz (Interactive Museum of Jewish Montreal)

Chair: **David S. Koffman** (University of Toronto)

1:30-3:30 PM: CSJS session 5 | Issues in Kabbalistic Studies

Sarah Licha (Université de Montréal): La Kabbale intégrative de Rabbi Abraham Aboulafia: L'être humain dans sa potentialité messianique

Ira Robinson (Concordia University): Elijah de Vidas and the Process of the Popularization of Kabbala in the Sixteenth Century

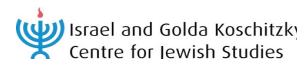
Andrea Gondos (Concordia University): Printing and Popularizing Kabbalah in Early Modernity: R. Yissachar Baer as an Agent of Culture

Justin Jaron Lewis (University of Manitoba): Meanings of Shekhinah in Tosher Hasidism

Chair: **Daniel Maoz**

3:30-4:30 PM: Annual General Meeting, Canadian Society of Jewish Studies

The ACJS would like to extend a thank you to our sponsors:





The Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies

Working Papers in Canadian Jewish Studies

The Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies announces the latest in its series of working papers in Canadian Jewish Studies published online at <http://cjs.concordia.ca/publications/working-papers-in-canadian-jewish-studies/>.

Working Paper Number 4: Dr. Pierre Anctil, "[Bâtir une synagogue à la haute ville de Québec, 1931-1952](#)," March 8, 2013.

Earlier Working Papers include:

Working Paper Number 1: Dr. Sharon Gubbay Helfer, "[Rome Among the Bishops: A Reflection on David Rome and His Contributions to Dialogue](#)," December 13, 2012.

Working Paper Number 2: Dr. Ira Robinson, "['A Strike in Heaven': The Montreal Rabbis' Walkout of 1935 and Its Significance](#)," December 20, 2012.

Working Paper Number 3: Dr. Ira Robinson, "['No Litvaks Need Apply': Judaism in Quebec City](#)," February 6, 2013.

Please send manuscripts for consideration and any queries to cjs.fas@concordia.ca.

Chaire de l'Université Concordia en Études Juives Canadiennes

«Working Papers» en Études Juives Canadiennes

Chaire de l'Université Concordia en Études Juives Canadiennes annonce la dernière de la série de «Working Papers» en études juives canadiennes qui sont publiés en ligne : <http://cjs.concordia.ca/publications/working-papers-in-canadian-jewish-studies/>.

Working Paper Number 4: Dr. Pierre Anctil, «[Bâtir une synagogue à la haute ville de Québec, 1931-1952](#),» March 8, 2013.

Numéros 1-3 :

Working Paper Number 1: Dr. Sharon Gubbay Helfer, «[Rome Among the Bishops: A Reflection on David Rome and His Contributions to Dialogue](#),» December 13, 2012.

Working Paper Number 2: Dr. Ira Robinson, «['A Strike in Heaven': The Montreal Rabbis' Walkout of 1935 and Its Significance](#),» December 20, 2012.

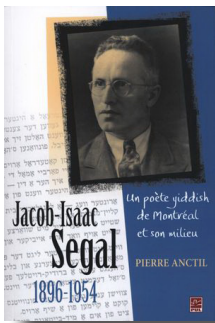
Working Paper Number 3: Dr. Ira Robinson, «['No Litvaks Need Apply': Judaism in Quebec City](#),» February 6, 2013.

S'il vous plaît envoyez les manuscrits et des questions à cjs.fas@concordia.ca.

ON THE *Bookshelf*



PIERRE ANCTIL's new book, *Jacob-Isaac Segal; Un poète yiddish de Montréal et son milieu* (Presses de l'Université Laval, 2012), was 'launched' in Montreal this past February at the Jewish Public Library.



Toronto Yiddishists will have the pleasure of attending its Toronto launch (with Pierre present) on Sunday, June 9, 2013, at 4 p.m., at the Beth David Synagogue. The book launch will be the closing event of the week-long Jewish Book Festival.

For information about the book in French check out this link: www.pulaval.com/catalogue/jacob-isaac-segal-1896-1954-poete-9831.html.

Also there is a 3.5-minute video of the Montreal launch (mainly in French and with a poem read in Yiddish): www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yco908eZJB0.

SUSAN LANDAU-CHARK has a chapter aptly titled "Canada" in the recently published *The Jewish Emigrant from Britain 1700-2000: Essays in Memory of Lloyd P.*

Gartner, edited by Gabriel A. Sivan (Jerusalem, Israel: Jewish Historical Society of England (Jerusalem Branch), 2013). Launched in



Jerusalem this past March, the book relates the hitherto untold story of how and why Jews left the British Isles to settle in distant parts of the world, often

establishing the first permanent Jewish communities in North America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

The chapter on Canada, focusing on the early British Jewish settlers, explores the ease with which British Jews were able to emigrate and integrate into Canadian society.

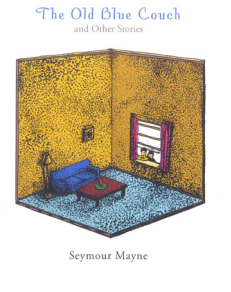
Professor **SEYMOUR MAYNE** (Ottawa), the Association's 2009 recipient of the Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award, now has 61 books to his credit.

Just before Purim, the Hebrew edition of *The Old Blue Couch and Other Stories* (original English publisher, Toronto: Ronald P. Frye & Company), was published by Keshev, in Tel Aviv.

For those of you who attended the 2009 ACJS conference, Seymour regaled the audience with the story of the old blue couch. Now Israeli audiences will have the pleasure of reading his delightful (and

humorous) Jewish Canadian stories.

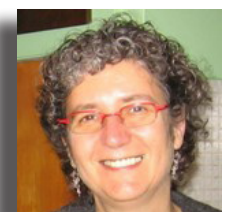
Keshev is the leading publisher of international literature in Israel focusing on the writings of poets.



Seymour's book is part of a new prose series devoted to the work of Nobel Prize winners and other acclaimed writers such as the late great Polish author Czeslaw Milosz.

The original English edition (<http://ronaldpfrye.com>) has been favourably reviewed across Canada in leading newspapers and has also been positively noted online in literary magazines both here in Canada and in France.

SONIA ZYLBERBERG has a new story published in the current issue of jewishfiction.net (the first online English-language journal devoted exclusively to the publication of Jewish fiction).



This link will take you straight to an entertaining read: www.jewishfiction.net/index.php/publisher/articleview/frmArticleID/237/.

The story, called "Vashti to the Rescue," is a broad retelling of the Book of Esther. It fills in the gaps of "what happened to Vashti" and presents a proactive Esther. □

From Our Regions

The West

Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta - Calgary

A number of this year's Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta programs have been dedicated to the memory of



Jack Switzer, our esteemed colleague and past president who passed away in January 2012. This special programming began with the Annual General Meeting presentation in October in Jack's memory, featuring recollections of the Shaarey Tzedec Congregation (1958-1986), whose building has been slated for demolition. Plans are underway for an historic marker on the site.

This winter, JHSSA sponsored the Jack Switzer Memorial Research Workshops. This series of three meetings, led by Glenbow archivist Doug Cass and JHSSA archivist Agi Romer Segal, highlighted the variety of archival resources available to anyone interested in local Jewish history.

On January 20, 2013, Michael Dawe, curator of history at the Red Deer Museum, presented an illustrated lecture about the early Jewish colony near Pine Lake. Traces of the early Jewish homes have been uncovered, and further research is ongoing. The fate of these colonists was the topic of one of Jack's earliest articles for the JHSSA journal *Discovery* in 1994.

Our special tribute to Jack Switzer will be held on May 13, 2013. The evening will be dedicated to Jack's many

contributions to the local community and to the field of Jewish history.

Ontario Jewish Archives

Ontario Jewish Archives Director Dara Solomon told the ACJS about two exciting initiatives that will bring their collections out of the vault and into the community.



Firstly, the Ontario's Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Sport awarded the OJA a Museums and Technology grant enabling the OJA to redesign its website, which will include mobile accessibility, an online searchable database of the OJA collection, and curated content by subject. The new website will be launched in 2014.

Secondly, the OJA has established a new school partnership initiative that brings the archives into classrooms at Bialik Hebrew Day School and



Grade 3 students at Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School, November 2012.

Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School in Toronto. Classroom visits are designed around the Ontario Ministry of Education's 3rd and 4th grade curriculum guidelines, highlighting themes of immigration, urban versus rural development, and city building. Students have enjoyed learning about the local Jewish past while adding their own anecdotes and stories.

The East

Interactive Museum of Jewish Montreal



Dr. Stephanie Tara Schwartz is pleased to share some exciting news from the Interactive Museum of Jewish Montreal (IMJM) with the ACJS community.

Check out our new online walking tour "Between These Walls: Hidden Sounds of Hazzanut in Montreal": www.imjm.ca/hazzanut. This tour explores Montreal's cantorial tradition. It includes rare recordings and oral histories, providing a snippet of what the city's synagogues looked and sounded like half a century ago. Stay tuned for the mobile version of the tour for use on tablets and smart phones.

Join us in Montreal for two exciting events in May:

On Sunday, May 5, Sara Tauben, Zev Moses and Stephanie Schwartz will be leading walking tours of Jewish Mile End as part of Montreal's Jane's Walks. www.urbanecology.net/walks.

Sunday, May 12, is reCollection (www.recollectionmtl.com), a city-wide scavenger hunt for Montreal's Jewish past, a joint venture between IMJM and the Jewish Public Library.

Launched in 2010 with and supported by the Jewish Community Foundation's Connecting Through Culture grant program, IMJM collects, maps, and shares the history and experiences of the Montreal Jewish community through exhibits, walking tours and online and mobile technology. The IMJM has recently been lauded in the Forward, <http://blogs.forward.com/the-art-y-semite/172468/montreal-museum-takes-the-internet-to-the-streets/>, and Tablet, www.tabletmag.com/jewish-life-and-religion/124343/montreal-a-virtual-jewish-museum.

Visit us at <http://imjm.ca>. For news and events, follow us on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/InteractiveMuseumOfJewishMontreal>.

An update on 100+ Years of the Ste. Sophie/New Glasgow Jewish Farming Community – A Historical Exhibition

The presentation of this exhibition has been advanced until 2014. The location has been changed to a venue in Montreal (to be determined) instead of the village of Ste. Sophie. These changes will provide additional time for preparation of the displays and artifacts that will be used. In the future, the website www.jewishfarmers.ca will continue to serve as a source for news and information as this exhibition develops. For further information, you may email Howard Gontovnick at howardg@alumni.concordia.ca.

Saint John Jewish Historical Society Inc.

By Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator

We have several research projects on the go at the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum at the present time. Two of the projects will result in museum exhibits, the other two into ongoing activities.

The Changing Roles of Jewish Women/ The Threads Of Generations

An exhibit telling the story of 18 decades of Jewish women's history in Saint John will be shown from May 2013 to April 2014. This exhibit tells the stories of the contributions of Jewish women – religious and domestic roles, support of Jewish organizations, family businesses, professions, and community and public service. It will incorporate a series of fifteen display panels with text and photographs. A special feature will highlight the accomplishments of many prominent women in the

community. The exhibit will also tell the stories of the women whose activities are sometimes forgotten. Documents, photographs and artifacts from the Museum's archival collections will also be displayed. A professionally produced video will accompany the exhibit. This will include photographs, excerpts from audio interviews, home movies and other material linked together with a new narrative.

In addition, many women in the Jewish community were skilled in the making of quilts, afghans, hats,



One of the executive of the Henrietta Szold Chapter of Hadassah — Saint John, 1950.

clothing and decorative items for their homes and for the synagogue. Examples of women's creative handwork (e.g. tablecloths, needlepoint, knitting, sewing, embroidery, painting and drawing) from the permanent collections and on loan from community members will be displayed. This work will be accompanied by photographs of some of the women who made these items. Some of these creative skills came through the generations although many of these skills are not practiced by many of the current generation.

New Holocaust Memorial Exhibit Will Highlight Local Links

The first phase of our Holocaust Memorial Exhibit will be completed in time for our 2013 opening at the end of May. The exhibit will focus on connections of Saint Johnners and other New Brunswickers to victims and survivors of what has been

called "The Jewish Catastrophe" and "The Great Terror."

This exhibit includes letters received by Jewish families in Saint John from relatives in Europe both before and after the Second World War, as well as photographs of family members and audio and video interviews with people who survived or escaped before it was too late. Production of videos related to this exhibit has become an important part of it because of its mission to educate the public, especially young people, and as a memorial to people who perished and a celebration of those who got away.

Gary Davis writes, "It must have been quite a shock, as well as a relief, when in 1945 my great-uncle Joseph Wiesel, co-owner with my grandfather of Wiesel Bros. Ltd. in Saint John, received a telegram from Sweden dated July 13. Its 11 words had a big impact. 'LIBERATED CONCENTRATION CAMP HERE FOR RECOVERY LETTER FOLLOWS SEND LETTER MONEY.' It was signed by Michael Fried, my mother's second cousin, and was the beginning of a three-year correspondence during which Uncle Joe and his siblings sent financial and material help to Michael and tried to overcome immigration restrictions to bring him to Canada or the United States."

About 100 of these documents still exist, along with some from other relatives of the Wiesel family from before 1939, and many post-War letters and some photos from other relatives of the Wiesel family. Two cousins did eventually get to Saint John, and others to Montreal, Edmonton and elsewhere, but Michael married and settled in Sweden.

Rose Wiesel and Albert Featherman were survivors. They met at a displaced

Continued on page 10



The Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies
Student Journal of Canadian Jewish Studies
Call for Papers

The Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies is happy to announce the Call for Papers for the next issue of The Student Journal of Canadian Jewish Studies.

The Student Journal of Canadian Jewish Studies seeks articles and book reviews by students relating to the Jewish experience in Canada.

About the Journal: SJCJS is web-based, peer-reviewed and supported by the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University, Montreal.

Our goal is to attract a diverse audience and to provide a forum for undergraduate and graduate students to contribute to the field of Canadian Jewish studies.

Past issues can be found at <http://portico.concordia.ca/canadianjewishjournal/index.htm>.

Submission Guidelines:

1. Submission must be 15,000 words or fewer.
2. All papers must be titled, proofread and should conform to MLA guidelines (footnote system).
3. Papers should be accompanied by an abstract (max. 300 words) and author's biography.
4. On the top of your submission please include: your name, university and year; exact word count; class for which the paper was written (if written for a class); name of the professor to whom the paper was submitted.

Papers can be sent via email attachment to cjsstudentjournal@gmail.com. **The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2013.**

All papers will be kept confidential by the editors. Queries and comments can also be addressed to Katherine Romanow, Editor, at cjsstudentjournal@gmail.com.

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persons camp after the war. Their families were murdered in camps or in other atrocities. A photo taken at a wedding celebration near Sighet, Romania, shows



Wedding celebration near Sighet, Romania, mid-1930s. One of the people in this photograph survived the Holocaust and moved to Saint John.

Rose Wiesel with relatives and friends, including Abraham Ovics, another survivor who lives in Edmonton.

The stories of these and about ten others who came to New Brunswick before or after the War, some of whom were able to evade the concentration camps but who spent time in Canadian internment camps, will become part of the exhibit, along with educational information about the Holocaust and its antecedents. We are trying to reach people to collect as much information as possible. If you know of anyone connected to Saint John or New Brunswick in this way, we would appreciate any information you can send.

Walking Tour of Jewish Sites in Central Saint John

We have been working for the last few years developing a walking tour that highlights the former homes, businesses

and offices and other places of work of Jewish residents of Saint John.

In addition to research by members of the Museum and the curator, in 2012 students working in the museum collected data from our archives, conducted and recorded oral interviews and took photographs of more than three dozen structures that were once connected to the Jewish community. Volunteer guides took groups on walking tours in 2010.

This year we will develop a brochure and map to feature these locations for a self-guided exploration of Saint John history. We have also partnered with a local expert on walking tours who will present a guided walk to some of these locations in the summer of 2013.

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ACJS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MAY 30, 2012 WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Present: Randal Schnoor (President and Chair), Robin Bergart, Jason Chalmers, Paula Draper, Faith Jones, Bernard Katz, Michael Kent, David Koffman, Susan Landau-Chark, Jack Lipinsky, Sylvia Lustgarten, Richard Menkis, Ira Robinson, Janice Rosen (Secretary), Stephanie Schwartz, Gary Smolyansky, Barry Stiefel, Harold Troper, Peter J. Usher

Call to order: Randal Schnoor

Once all participants introduced themselves, the meeting began officially at 10:43 a.m.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The 2011 Annual General Meeting minutes were approved, with a motion by Harold Troper. Faith Jones seconded.

President's Report - Randal Schnoor

Randal noted the passing of Rabbi Gunther Plaut, followed two months later by his son, Rabbi Jonathan Plaut, who in 1977 was the founding editor of our journal, then called the *Canadian Jewish Historical Society Journal*. Also Allan Raymond and Jack Switzer passed away this year.

Paula Draper shared her recollection of Rabbi Gunther Plaut's eulogy by his son. Bernard Katz recalled to the group his suggestion that a section of our website be a tribute area honouring these people. Randal agreed that this was a good idea that should be pursued with the webmaster.

Randal congratulated Stephanie Schwartz on her recent successful thesis defence and asked her to tell the group about her topic, which was on the meaning of diaspora from an Arab Jewish perspective and the concept of multiple homelands. David Koffman was congratulated on his recent PhD dissertation about encounters between Jews and native Americans. It was also noted that last year, Steven Lapidus successfully defended his PhD.

It was noted that in the past year, there had been a lot of scholarship about Canadian Jewish life, including Randal's contribution in the *Journal of Contemporary Jewry*. A special edition of the American-based journal, *Contemporary Jewry* was devoted to the study of the Canadian Jewish experience. The volume, guest-edited by Randal Schnoor, was published in December 2011.

This led to a webinar in April 2012 promoting the journal issue. It went well and is a good tool to promote scholarship. Ira is currently editing a book about Jews in Canada, and the *American Jewish Yearbook*, now revived, is soliciting articles from several ACJS members.

This report was received with approval.

Membership Report -

Randal for Steven Lapidus, Membership Chair

Steven Lapidus reported that there are currently 78 paid-up members for 2012, an increase of 5 members since 2011. The membership breaks down as follows: Regular (and affiliates): 31; Students: 13; Institutional members: 14; Seniors 19; and 1 Donor membership. The numbers have gone up from last year's 73 members but have dipped from 2009 (131) and 2010 (148). Why? One reason suggested was possibly again because of a lag in Journal publication. Barry Stiefel suggested that the location of the conference might affect membership from year to year because if more attend the conference in any given year, those individuals were likely to join in that year.

In recent years ACJS has employed an assistant who has helped with phone calls to lapsed members. We hope to continue to do that, as it is an effective tactic.

Susan Landau-Chark motioned to accept the report and Ira Robinson seconded it. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Robin Bergart

A detailed written report was submitted to the participants and is available on request. In summary the major expenses are the Journal and the conference, which are around \$5000 each. Robin had suggested previously that the Journal be exclusively available online, but this was controversial. She made the case that libraries and students are increasingly expecting online access.

Other cost-cutting measures: Barry asked about the emailing of the bulletin, raising the question of whether his request for emailed bulletins was noted. It is difficult to indicate this preference when renewing via Paypal.

Conference costs are usually about the same, aside from the

Vancouver conference, which received extra funding. Copyright fees income is going down, but our website is less expensive, and our annual accounting is done gratis by Gerry Silver.

Some money was deposited 20 years ago from the previous CJC and the remainder of this money is in the assets of the Association. Also there were years when the Journal was not published or was published as double catch-up issues, thereby causing a financial surplus. Also some of the money raised for the Vancouver conference was a surplus.

The proposed budget mostly duplicates the budget from the past year.

A motion to approve the budget was made by Robin and seconded by Harold (Hesh) Troper.

Hesh also made a motion to thank and reappoint accountant Gerry Silver. Robin approved. Hesh seconded. Unanimously approved, Gerry Silver was thus officially thanked and reappointed.

Bulletin Report - Susan Landau-Chark

Susan thanked Shirley Brodt for producing the Bulletin and Janice Rosen for allowing her to work on it while at CJCCC. Now that Shirley no longer works for CJCCC she was paid a flat fee for the latest bulletin. Susan hoped that this arrangement would continue. She urged people to be timely in their bulletin submissions.

Bernard Katz and Randal both commented on how good the bulletin looks.

(Susan makes a motion to accept the Bulletin report.)

Susan reported that Janice noted that the more complex database enhancements that Shirley did now cannot continue either, although Janice will continue making the updates. Ira Robinson noted that there was no single person responsible for administrative matters. It was decided to address and resolve this issue at the Open Board Meeting the next day.

Faith raised the issue of a completely electronic journal as well as a newsletter again, agreeing with Robin's comments in the context of the budget.

Hesh suggested going immediately to the default of an emailed bulletin, whether the member indicated a preference or not. Barry Stiefel added that we could send paper copies only to institutional members so that they could display it. Janice suggested emailing to all who have email addresses but with a choice to get a mailed one indicated in the emailed bulletin. It would also be good to distribute some to places such as the various Jewish archives and Canadian

Jewish studies departments for display and to attract members. Bernard Katz was basically in agreement with these ideas.

The question arose as to whether there should be a wait period for putting the bulletin online. It had been done this way until now, but Richard Menkis and others were of the opinion that this delay should stop as the bulletin was an inducement to join the Association. Resolved: We will put the most recent bulletin online as a PDF now and will continue to do this with bulletins as soon as they are available.

Hesh, in conjunction with Randal, resolved to direct the Board to do as suggested above regarding the emailing of the bulletins. David Koffman seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Conference Report - Randal Schnoor for Rebecca Margolis, Conference Chair

Discussion of this year's conference and of next year's in Victoria was tabled to the next day.

Journal Report - Randal Schnoor for Rebecca Margolis, Bulletin Editor

As Rebecca could not be present, she sent in her report. The next issue, which will be on the theme of Yiddish studies, will be out in the fall. Faith Jones reported that it will be a large issue, Approximately three articles are still being awaited, but most are in. There will be nine articles, including Eiran Harris's bibliography of Hebrew typed materials in Canada.

The next journal editors are David Koffman and Stephanie Schwartz, for at least two issues. These are being planned as "special" (themed) issues. One will be a comparative issue on Jews in other nations, such as Argentina. The other will be a comparative issue about Canadian Jews and Canadians of other religions. David noted that the Conference and the Journal were the main communication vehicles for the Association, especially the Journal, and that it was therefore important.

Richard Menkis asked if people still send in unsolicited articles and if all the submissions were expected to be thematic. David answered that the outstanding submissions were very old, so this was not currently a problem. (Note: This issue was discussed further at the Open Board Meeting the next day.)

On the subject of the Journal's back issues, Ira Robinson reported that there were about a dozen boxes of them, totalling hundreds of issues. His holdings even include some Canadian Jewish Historical Society journals. The more recent issues have fewer extra copies, but for older ones there are sometimes over 100 remaining, and only one or two of these are sold per year. The question was asked whether to discard them or to keep 10 or 20 per volume.

Even when we advertise their availability there are limited takers. The Canadian Jewish Studies volumes are available in electronic form, but the old CJHS Journal is not. It was noted that if all the volumes were scanned and available on the website, it would be a different situation. Randal expressed support for keeping no more than 20 of each issue and recommended looking into scanning the ones which have not yet been done. Ira noted that he could make a scanner available to Stephanie Schwartz, who volunteered to look into doing the scanning.

The question of future issues being in hard copy versus online only was tabled to the next day's meeting.

Election of the New Slate - Barry Stiefel

The new slate was printed in the recent Bulletin. It was pointed out that one could not nominate additional members from the floor. Robin Bergart was listed as remaining on as Treasurer, although she would like to step down when the opportunity became available. It was noted that members of the Executive Committee were automatically members of the Board.

Proposed Slate of ACJS Board Members for 2012-2013

Officers

President: Randal Schnoor
 Vice-President: Barry Stiefel
 Treasurer: TBD Secretary: Janice Rosen
 Past President: Norm Ravvin

Executive Committee

Journal Editors: David Koffman and Stephanie Schwartz
 Bulletin Editor: Susan Landau-Chark
 Chair, Communities and Archives: Debby Schoctor
 Chair, Membership: Steven Lapidus
 Chair, Programs & Conference: Rebecca Margolis
 Book Review Editor: Ira Robinson
 Chair, Academic Committee: TBD
 Chair, Finance: TBD
 Chair, Nominations: Barry Stiefel
 Honorary Officer: Gerry Silver

Board Members for 2012-2015

David Koffman (NY) Richard Menkis (BC)
 Seymour Mayne (ON) Stephanie Schwartz (QC)

Board Members for 2012-2014

Pierre Anctil (QC) Hernan Tesler-Mabe (ON)

Board Members for 2012-2013

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

Bernard Katz noted that there was an insufficient number of members on the Board, as 20 were needed, while there were 14 on the slate. Randal was allowed to appoint five. As to be discussed in the next item, a motion was made to reduce the number of Board members to a minimum of six and a maximum of fourteen. David Koffman asked if a motion to amend the bylaws could be made before accepting the slate. Bernard Katz said that one could ask for a suspension of the bylaw for the purpose of approving the slate and that this suspension must be passed by two-thirds of the voters. Hesh Troper asked if it were possible to agree to accept the slate with the proviso that the President regularize it later. Bernard answered that the proper procedure was to move to suspend the bylaw regarding the number of members on the board for the purpose of the slate at this time only, May 30, 2012. Hesh then moved and Bernard seconded the motion to do so. The motion was passed unanimously. Following this, the vote on the above proposed slate was approved unanimously.

New Business

A) A Motion to Amend the Bylaws - Barry Stiefel

A revision was proposed to the Association's bylaws to make the Board more functional and efficient and to involve the Board more in decision-making by reducing its size while still retaining a reasonable geographic representation from across the country. The full text of the proposed bylaw revision is available upon request. The essence of the proposed bylaw revision was that the members of the Board be reduced from the present 20-35 to a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 14.

In the ensuing discussion, David Koffman asked about the implications of an insufficient number of people at a Board meeting, in terms of a quorum, and would the lack of a quorum slow down decision-making. The current bylaws state the Board's quorum is eight, while the AGM quorum is 12. Hesh suggested that people should be allowed to be part of a quorum via online access.

Regarding geographic representation, Randal proposed to suspend the rule saying that there could not be more than three members from any province, saying there should be an exception for Ontario and Quebec, or else the by laws should do away with the requirement of representational balance. David proposed that Board members be conscious of geographic areas, but without legislating geographical balance. It was agreed that these issues have to be revised in the bylaws. The new phrasing should say: "Efforts should be made for the ACJS Board to represent all the regions but that the previous specific geographic obligations should be removed." Bernard Katz expressed agreement with this amendment.

Randal moved that the amendment be made as indicated above, Hesh seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

B) A Proposal to Establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Yiddish in Canada - Bernard Katz

The full text of the proposal is available upon request. Bernard noted that the precedent for this type of ad hoc committee was Abe Arnold's Archives and Communities Committee, which eventually became a standing committee. He asked for approval in principle to establish this committee, with small but reasonable national representation. It would concern itself with issues around Yiddish education, life and culture. Michael Kent asked if the mandate of

the committee excluded Hasidic Yiddish speakers. The answer was in the negative. The committee was not designed to be specifically secular. It would not, however, address other Jewish heritage language cultures such as Ladino, as that would be a separate issue. Bernard moved that the ad hoc committee be established, and Sylvia Lustgarten seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The meeting then adjourned at approximately 12:10 p.m. □

**ACJS OPEN BOARD MEETING, WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY
8:30 A.M., MAY 31, 2012**

Present: Randal Schnoor (President and Chair), Robin Bergart, Bernard Katz, David Koffman, Susan Landau-Chark, Richard Menkis, Ira Robinson, Janice Rosen (Secretary), Stephanie Schwartz, Barry Stiefel, Harold Troper

Conference Report, Discussion – Randal Schnoor

Rebecca Margolis reported to Randal prior to the present meeting that there were no problems aside from obtaining kosher catering. Randal reported that the Conference had gone well. Attendance at the evening program attracted around 35 people. The issue of why there had been no community program this year was raised. The reasons were because the location was so close to Toronto and because Shavuot prevented a Sunday program; as a consequence of these factors, outreach was not done.

Next year (2013) in Victoria we anticipate more community involvement. The timing of the Conference there is tied to the Victoria synagogue's 150th anniversary of the laying of Congregation Emanu-El's cornerstone. Sunday will be taken up by the community with the community's own anniversary events, so an ACJS evening would have to be on Monday night. There should be some local history presentation content in the sessions. The possibility was raised of doing so in conjunction with a professor at the University of Victoria who is having undergraduates write articles for an anniversary-associated publication.

Conference 2014: Barry Stiefel and Hernan Tesslar-Mabe are preparing a comparative and contrastive Canadian-American Jewish cultural experience volume. Might this theme be worked into the ACJS conference two years from now at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario, due to its proximity to the U.S. border? Bernard Katz recalled a successful conference there in the 1990s with community involvement and suggested that they be involved again.

Robin Bergart raised the issue of the cost of the conference. ACJS still charges \$30 for members, which is among the lowest rates:

Some societies charge over \$100. For the first time ACJS has joined the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. In the past ACJS paid only \$20 per attendee. When CSSH raised this to \$50 this year, we joined the Congress, which is a saving over paying \$50 per attendee, and our name appears in the affiliates list.

Proposed raise: From previous rate of (Members = \$30, Non-M, = \$40, Retired members = \$25, Retired Non-Members = \$30, and Students and unwaged = \$20), it was moved that we raise every category by \$10. The proposal was moved by Bernard Katz, seconded by Susan Landau-Chark, and passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Rebecca Margolis' conference report: Janice Rosen motions, David Koffman seconds – passed unanimously.

Bulletin - Organization of Office Work and Logistics

In the current arrangement, two people are looking after the cheques (Ira Robinson and Robin Bergart), while the database is managed by Janice Rosen at CJCCC. Sophia Warshall (the assistant), who did mailings and made follow-up calls, is leaving her position, but hopefully another assistant can be hired. Various emails on the website direct questions to different places.

A dedicated bulletin email address is needed. One cannot send more than forty emails at a time through Google or Hotmail because it is considered spamming. We now have a Wordpress website, and the question was raised as to whether we could get an email address through this. Randal will inquire. The question was raised as to whether there should be an email cc for all business, which Randal could check if needed. It was decided that using his regular email address was simpler. Bernard recalled the problem of members from previous years being owed journals from that year.

Ira and Janice will meet soon to discuss the various issues and will circulate a list of the various responsibilities to the others involved. Ira, incoming chair of Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia, will look into getting part-time assistance for the ACJS again.

Journal Discussion

Bernard Katz expressed concern that too many special issues would mean other papers would not be published – a concern for young scholars in particular. Barry Stiefel also expressed concern that the ACJS journal does not provide a forum for him to publish. Bernard also asked about the extent to which all the papers will be concerned with Canadian Jewish issues. David Koffman responded that it was possible that unrelated unsolicited manuscripts would be included in a special edition, based on the situation. Janice asked if conference papers could be reflected more in the journal content. Randal noted that this was the basis of the Yiddish volume. He agreed with Bernard's concern about a venue for unrelated papers. He suggested one thematic issue rather than two in order to encourage more papers on other themes. Book reviews are to continue as before.

Regarding back issues, Richard spoke with Sara Tauben's daughter Evelyn, who is willing to distribute free issues at Klez Canada in Quebec. This could also be done at Ashkenaz in Ontario. It should be done with a label saying "Compliments of the Association," with a contact number. This idea was received with enthusiasm.

Listserve

Statistics on the number of postings is visible on the Yahoo page. There was a controversy last year over an advertisement for a Jewish Defence League-sponsored lecture. Randal felt that we needed to develop a rules-and-guidelines policy about drawing the lines on political views. Bernard raised the example of discussing the issue of Israel "apartheid." Randal thought members could have a civil conversation about something of this nature online. David agreed but stipulated that the messages should be private

among the membership group and not circulated beyond the list, without moderation necessary. Therefore, in the example of the JDL-sponsored lecture, it was not inappropriate to post the lecture, and the discussion that ensued was not a bad thing. So, should there be guidelines? A disclaimer in the message footer might be the answer. The disclaimer would say something to the effect that we were providing a space for a conversation and are not responsible for content. It should not be confined to current members only, and it would be difficult to update.

Richard proposed the following motion: To follow the open forum model of H-Net for a year and see how it works. General agreement for this idea was expressed. Randal will continue to ponder the issue of the Listserve and may share his thoughts by email.

In addition, Stephanie Schwartz thought that a blog or Facebook page would be useful. She might be interested in starting it after more discussion.

Yiddish Ad Hoc Committee

Bernard Katz requested feedback from members about the new ad hoc committee on Yiddish. He reported that this was not an initiative requiring ACJS funds at this time. A question was raised as to the purpose of the committee. Bernard explained that he was concerned that the organized Jewish committee (CIJA) was not placing priority on the continuity of Yiddish life and culture. Harold Troper suggested that Bernard and Sylvia Lustgarten develop a more specific strategy for action and report back to the Board. Stephanie suggested that Bernard speak to Rebecca Margolis. Richard Menkis suggested that the committee speak to Leo Davids.

Constitution Reform

Randal and Bernard and Barry will consult about the need for this.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. □

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Partnership with Canadian Jewish Heritage Network

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum was invited by Janice Rosen to share archival research on the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network website. The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum is the first Jewish archives outside Quebec to post information on this site.

Two sets of records were uploaded. The first set of records is composed of

more than 900 burial records for the Shaarei Zedek Cemetery in Saint John. For each entry, the data includes, where available, the dates of birth, death and burial, family relationships (parents, spouses, siblings and children), obituary notices from Saint John newspapers and photographs of the gravestones.

The second set is composed of information on Jewish residents and businesses as recorded in Saint John

city directories from 1863 to 1999. Researchers, particularly genealogists, will find this information very useful.

We will continue to add data to these records as required and as time permits. At some point we also hope to make our archival finding aids available through the CJHN.

The link to the material currently available is www.cjhn.ca/en/family-history/genealogy-search.aspx. □



ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES
ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDES JUIVES CANADIENNES

c/o DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION
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(Asterisks denote institutional members)

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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Saint-John-Jewish-Historical-Museum/118753971549220>

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