



## ACJS BULLETIN

### Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award 2010

**I**t is with great pleasure that the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies announces **Eiran Harris** of Montreal the 2010 recipient of the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award. The ACJS proudly recognizes the exceptional role Eiran Harris has played in preserving and disseminating the history of Jewish Montreal and Canada and in assisting the research of countless scholars of the Canadian Jewish experience, both amateur and professional.

A close friend of David Rome, one of the country's first bibliographers and archivists of Jewish Canada, Eiran Harris has served as archivist with Montreal's Jewish Public Library since

Canadian Jewish studies in one or more fields. Eiran Harris joins a distinguished list of writers, scholars and community leaders who have received this award in the past. This list includes Miriam

Waddington, Rabbi Gunther Plaut, Ruth Goldbloom, Abraham Arnold, Professor Gerald Tulchinsky, Professor Irving Abella, Cyril Leonoff, Seymour Levitan, and Professor Seymour Mayne.

The executive of the ACJS extends enthusiastic

**EIRAN HARRIS** has been active in preserving the history of Jewish Montreal and Canada for many decades as a collector of documents and an interviewer of many important figures in Canadian Jewish history. Historian Joe King calls Eiran Harris Mr. Information for his ability to recall details on a variety of issues ranging from the Jewish community of Granby to the history of the Shaar Hashomayim, or hundreds of other hot topics of interest. A scholar and noted historian

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the early 1990s on a volunteer basis. He possesses a vast knowledge of the history of Canadian Jewry and has worked tirelessly to share that knowledge with others.

The Louis Rosenberg Award was established in 2001 to recognize the significant contribution(s) of an individual, group or institution to

congratulations to Eiran Harris and looks forward to presenting this award to him on the evening of Sunday, May 30, 2010, in Montreal as part of our annual conference.

Dr. Susan J. Landau-Chark  
Vice-President, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

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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 goals are 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 [silandauchark@gmail.com](mailto:silandauchark@gmail.com).

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

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ISSN 14895954

## Proposed Slate of ACJS Board Members for 2010

### Executive Committee (Officers are also members)

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Chair, Membership: TBD

Chair, Programs (and Conference): Rebecca Margolis

Book Review Editor: Ira Robinson

Chair, Academic Committee: TBD

Chair, Finance: TBD

Chair, Nominations: Susan Landau-Chark

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Abraham Arnold (MB)

Dana Herman (OH)

Eve Lerner (QC)

Edward Mickelson (AB)

Lara Rabinovitch (New York)

*Continued from page 1*

in his own right, his passion for collecting information has not been limited to the Jewish community, as illustrated one year when the McCord Museum had reason to call upon his expertise in organizational logos. More recently, he has been working with the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives to translate the obituaries from the *Keneder*

*Adler* newspaper from Yiddish into English. PhD candidate Lara Rabinovitch speaks for many of us when she noted that "Eiran Harris possesses that rare ability to both consume and synthesize vast amounts of knowledge, particularly about Montreal and Canadian Jewish history. He is a walking encyclopedia, and one of the sharpest minds I know." ■

## President's Message



Dear members and friends of the ACJS,

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of Bernard Katz, who is stepping down after serving as ACJS treasurer for eleven years(!) Bernie has not only been the meticulous keeper of our finances, but because of his dedication to the organization he has also unofficially served as co-president, co-vice-president and co-secretary (not to mention master of the by-laws). To be honest, he is the glue which holds the Association together. I thank him very much for his enormous contribution to the ACJS and hope that he will still remain involved. We warmly welcome Robin Bergart as our new treasurer.

Please plan to join us in Montreal for our upcoming conference, May 30 to June 1, 2010. The community portion of the conference (to be held on Sunday, May 30) will take place at the Jewish Public Library and is free and open to the public. Please plan to come to the Annual General Meeting of the Association on Monday, May 31, at 9 a.m., at Concordia (Molson School of Business Building [MB], room S1-430).

We are delighted to honour Eiran Harris on Sunday evening with the 2010 Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award. The full program of the conference is contained in this bulletin and available on our website: [www.acjs-aejc.ca/conference.html](http://www.acjs-aejc.ca/conference.html).

As I have mentioned previously, the ACJS has established a new working group in "Critical Canadian Jewish Studies," which explores questions around the conceptual and practical relationships of Jews and Jewishness to multiculturalism in Canada. This initiative, led by David Koffman (graduate student at New York University) and Stephanie Schwartz (graduate student at the University of Ottawa), met three times over the past academic year to advance scholarship in this area. The group will be holding a roundtable discussion at the conference on Monday afternoon at Concordia. Professors Richard Menkis and Norman Ravvin will serve as respondents in what proves to be a very stimulating and provocative session. (See more information on this session in this volume.)

Thank you to Rebecca Margolis and Ira Robinson for their tireless work in putting this elaborate conference together.

I look forward to seeing you in Montreal,

Dr. Randal F. Schnoor

President, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

## Course on contemporary Jewish life

From January to March, 2010, **Randal Schnoor** taught a Master's-level course entitled "Contemporary Jewish Life in Canada" to Jewish community professionals.

The course is part of the Master of Arts program in "Jewish Professional Studies" under the auspices of Spertus College in Chicago. Such an MA program has been conducted for a few years at Spertus.

However, this was the first time it was done in Canada with a Canadian focus. The students were young adults who administer the Birthright Israel trips, March of the Living, Hillel programs, etc. The evening course was taught in Toronto, but students from other locations (Montreal, Guelph, Ottawa, London, Ontario, and Israel) participated in the course through teleconference. ■

## From our regions

### The West...

ACJS member **SHEILA DELANY**, Emeritus Professor, Simon Fraser University, has written the lead article, "The Jewish Connection: Chaucer and the Paris Jews, 1394," for the volume *Locating the Past / Discovering the*



Photo by Phil Maloney

*Present: Perspectives on Religion, Culture, and Marginality* edited by David Gay & Stephen R. Reimer (University of Alberta Press, June 2010). The book will be available at the Learned's (Montreal, June 2010).

Sheila spent autumn 2009 in Cassis, France, at the Camargo Foundation and spring 2010 in Berkeley, researching a new project on 18th century Bible study and babysitting her grandson.

### Ontario...

**JUDITH COHEN** (York University) warmed her Toronto audiences with lectures on Sephardic music for the

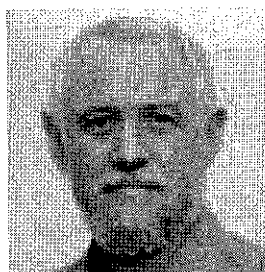


University of Toronto Centre for Jewish Studies (February 3, 2010), the Narayever Synagogue (Jan. 29, 2010) and the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (March 28, 2010), and on crypto-Jews and music in Portugal, also at the Narayever (Feb. 7, 2010).

Plans for the summer and fall are travel: She will be speaking at the European Association of Jewish Studies in Ravenna, July 2010; she will also be speaking on Nina Salom Vuckovic, a Bosnian Sephardic woman who lived her last decades in Kahnawake, Quebec, at a musicology conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, October 2010.

In press, she has an article "Selanikli Humour in Montreal: The Repertoire of Bouena Sarfatty Garfinkle" in *Acts, Conference on Judeo-Spanish Humour in Salonica, Thessaloniki*, ed. Rena Molho.

**SEYMOUR MAYNE** is the editor of a new book, *Voces del norte. Cuentos canadienses hasta la Primera Guerra Mundial* (Voices from the North: Canadian Stories to World War I),



translated into Spanish by Guillermo Badenes and Josefina Coisson et al., with an interview afterword by the editor, Córdoba, Argentina: Editorial Ícaro/Centro Cultural Canadá Córdoba, 2009, 204 pp. ISBN 978-987-25206-0-1.

### Montreal...

The **JEWS/MULTICULTURALISM/CANADA WORKING GROUP** is happy

### OBITUARY MERVIN BUTOVSKY



Mervin Butovsky, who died on April 6, 2010, was Professor Emeritus of English at Concordia University. He retired in 1996 after a career of 37 years at Sir George Williams University and Concordia University, where he taught and researched the American Jewish novel, especially the works of Saul Bellow, Canadian Jewish literature, including studies of A.M. Klein and Irving Layton, and the literature of the Holocaust. He was an active member of the Academic Council of Concordia University's Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.

He co-edited, together with Ira Robinson and Pierre Anctil, two volumes of essays on Montreal Jewry: *An everyday miracle: Yiddish culture in Montreal* (1990) and *Renewing our days: Montreal Jews in the twentieth century* (1995). Together with Ode Garfinkle, he co-edited and translated Ya'akov Zipser, *The far side of the river: Selected short stories* (1985), and *The journals of Ya'akov Zipser, 1950-1982: The struggle for Yiddishkeit* (2004). Together with Kurt Jonassohn, he directed the publication and distribution of over forty unpublished memoirs of Holocaust survivors in Canada.

to announce that it will be bringing its continuing discussions on critical Canadian Jewish studies to Montreal for the ACJS's annual meeting May 30 to June 1.

After three lively sessions in Toronto, the group will be presenting a roundtable discussion at the Congress, featuring chair David Koffman, panelists Sheryl Nestel, Michele Byers and Stephanie Tara Schwartz and discussants Richard Menkis and Norm Ravvin.

It will be holding its fourth meeting as a public forum in conjunction with the conference, where people can introduce themselves and their work to others interested in the topics of Jews, multiculturalism, whiteness, race, ethnicity, nationalism and other crisscrossing critical categories. Details of the fourth meeting will soon follow.

The highly engaging meetings to date have illuminated the need to build on foundational work in Canadian Jewish studies by contributing theoretical discussions surrounding the relation of Jews to other religious/ethnic/cultural groups within Canada and abroad. Thus, one of the J/M/C Working Group's current projects is to compile a bibliography of work that engages with the above themes.

The Working Group would like to invite all ACJS members to contribute to this bibliography with suggestions of scholarly publications on a topic of their own interest or one relevant to their discipline. This bibliography can serve as an excellent resource for the field in general.

A special thank-you to all participants, to Randal Schnoor for his help in the meeting preparations and to Director Eric Lawee and the Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies for providing the group with a meeting space and refreshments.

For information about the next meeting in Montreal, please contact the organizers, David Koffman at [davidkoffman@yahoo.com](mailto:davidkoffman@yahoo.com) and

Stephanie Schwartz at [stara.schwartz@gmail.com](mailto:stara.schwartz@gmail.com).

## Maritimes...

In SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, plans are underway for an exciting new exhibit for 2010, tentatively titled "The Jewish Geography of Saint John" exploring where the Saint John Jewish community lived and worked – along



Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

at Main Street, through the "Valley" (Winter, Spring and Summer Streets) and the uptown. Maps, photographs and written records will be used to illustrate the stories of the people and businesses which made up this community. Memorabilia from many of the businesses will fill the display cases (letterheads, shopping bags, shoehorns, cigar boxes, signs, bottles, etc.). The end result will be comprehensive, touching on the life story of nearly every Jewish resident of the city.

A walking tour of the city centre, which will focus on former Jewish homes and businesses, is also in the process of development and will be used to supplement the exhibit and as a stand-alone activity for visitors to Saint John.

Gary Davis, vice-president, and Katherine Biggs-Craft, curator, will lead the research into this project using the resources in the Museum, at the local libraries and archives, and elsewhere. ■

**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).



Israel and Golda Koschitzky  
Centre for Jewish Studies



Centre for Jewish Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

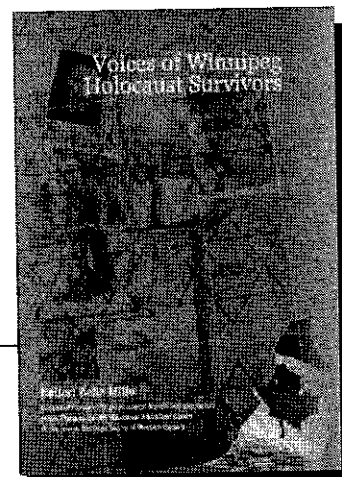
## Book launch and publications

### Freeman Family Holocaust Education Centre and Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada

Daniel Stone writes that the Freeman Family Holocaust Education Centre and Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada have just published *Voices of Winnipeg Holocaust Survivors*.

*Voices of Winnipeg Holocaust Survivors* documents the experiences of more than 70 local survivors before, during and after the Holocaust. Edited by Belle Millo, Chair of the Holocaust Education Centre, and designed by Gustavo Rymberg, formerly of Winnipeg, the hardcover 432-page book is available for purchase at the Jewish Heritage Centre office for \$36 (including GST). *Voices of Winnipeg Holocaust Survivors* represents the culmination of several years of work, which began more than a decade ago with the Manitoba Holocaust Heritage Project.

To buy the book, contact the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada, Suite C116-123 Doncaster Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 2B2.  
Phone: 204-477-7460. Email: [jhc@jhcwc.org](mailto:jhc@jhcwc.org).

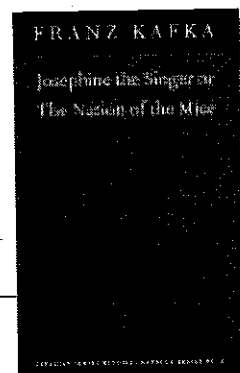


### Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies

#### *Josephine the Singer or The Nation of the Mice*, Franz Kafka

A new translation of Franz Kafka's *Josephine the Singer or The Nation of the Mice* by Karin Doerr, Barbara Galli, and Gary Evans. This volume also includes a new afterword by Karin Doerr focusing on the story's relevance to Kafka's Jewish identity and Prague during his lifetime. This is the fourth book in a Canadian Jewish Studies Chapbook Series published by Hungry I Books, a publishing arm of the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University.

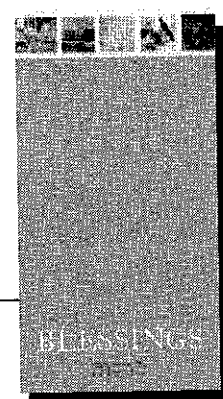
Hungry I Books. Price: \$12.95 CAN / US  
ISBN: 9780889474710



#### *Blessings: Art and Essays on Jewish Blessings*

This catalogue contains artwork, two curatorial studies and scholarly essays from exhibitions and a symposium mounted by Loren Lerner at Montreal's Temple Emanu-El Beth Shalom. Artists under discussion include Marcel Braitstein, Sylvia Safdie, Marion Wagschal, Devora Neumark, Sorel Cohen and Rita Briansky. The volume includes an introduction by Loren Lerner, Chair, Dept. of Fine Arts, Concordia University, and essays by Rabbis Howard Joseph and Leigh Lerner and Drs. Norma Joseph and Norman Ravvin. Artists' illustrations in colour. The curatorial essays discuss both the artists and the Judaica collection in the Temple's Aron Museum. This is the fifth chapbook in the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies' series dedicated to scholarship and creative work about Canadian Jewish themes.

Hungry I Books. Price: \$15.95 CAN / US  
ISBN: 9780889474703



#### Book Orders

Copies of the above books can be purchased by sending a cheque to Hungry I Books, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, SB-215, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8. Cheques should be payable to: Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.

## The Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program University of Ottawa

*An academic program that promotes an understanding of Jewish life, culture, language, literature, and history in Canada.*



### Minor in Jewish Canadian Studies

Course offerings in Jewish Canadian culture, history, literature and sociology as well as Yiddish language and culture.

### Faculty for the 2010-2011 academic year

Pierre Anctil  
Rebecca Margolis  
Seymour Mayne  
Randal Schnoor

### Course offerings for Fall 2010-Winter 2011

#### Fall 2010

- \* Sociology of Contemporary Canadian Jewish Life (SOC4105)  
Prof. Randal Schnoor, Mon. 4-7 p.m.
- \* Introduction to Yiddish Language and Culture 1 (YDD1901)  
Prof. Rebecca Margolis, Wed. 1-2:30 p.m.; Fri. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### Winter 2011

- \* Introduction to Jewish Canadian Studies (CDN1300)  
Prof. Rebecca Margolis, Thurs. 4-7 p.m.
- \* History of the Jews in Canada (CDN2105/HIS2105)  
Prof. Pierre Anctil, Thurs. 4-7 p.m.
- \* Introduction to Yiddish Language and Culture 2 (YDD1902) (Prerequisite: YDD1901)  
Prof. Rebecca Margolis, Mon. 4-5:30 p.m.; Wed. 2:30-4 p.m.

#### For more information

Prof. Rebecca Margolis, 613-562-5800 ext. 2955

E-mail: [rmargoli@uOttawa.ca](mailto:rmargoli@uOttawa.ca)

Prof. Seymour Mayne, 613-562-5800 ext. 1148

E-mail: [mayne@uOttawa.ca](mailto:mayne@uOttawa.ca)

[www.vered.uOttawa.ca](http://www.vered.uOttawa.ca)

## Petigorsky Family Scholarship

THE PETIGORSKY FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP was established in 2006 by Petigorsky family members Cecelia Tenenbaum, Estelle Gunner and Mel Schechter to commemorate the family and its role in the Ottawa Jewish community.

Appreciative of the opportunities this country had afforded them, the Petigorsky family decided that its fund would provide financial assistance to University of Ottawa

undergraduate students in the field of Canadian Jewish studies. The first scholarship was awarded to Darcie Ladd in 2009, who was both contributor to and editor of the published student volume *Creating Remembrance: Canadian Responses to the Holocaust*.

Applications may be made through the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program. ■



## ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CONGRESS FOR HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
MONTREAL, MAY 30–JUNE 1, 2010

### SUNDAY, MAY 30 | JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY, MONTREAL

LOCATION: 1 CUMMINGS SQUARE - 5151 CÔTE STE. CATHERINE  
RD. TEL: (514) 345-2627

Sunday's sessions are open to the general public free of charge. No registration is required.

#### 9:30 A.M.–11:30 P.M.: session 1 | CANADIAN JEWISH IMMIGRANT LIFE

Howard Gontovnick, "Did Productivization Play a Role in the Integration of Jewish Immigrants to Canada after 1890?" (Department of Religion, Concordia University)

Rachel Levy, "The Social and Economic Transformation of the Kingston Jewish Community as Revealed in the Census of Canada and City Directories - 1871–1911" (Department of History, Queen's University)

Faith Jones, "*Di ershte un greste Yidishe bukh stor*": Miller's Books advertising, 1910–1920" (Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program, University of British Columbia)

Emily Lam, "People didn't call it klezmer": Klezmer Music in Jewish Montreal: 1924–1970" (Independent Researcher, Montreal)

Presiding Chair: Rebecca Margolis (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Ottawa)

#### 11:30–1:00 P.M.: Lunch break

#### 1:00–2:30 P.M.: session 2 | ACJS – CSJS JOINT PANEL: RELIGIOUS LIFE/RABBIS IN CANADA

Ira Robinson, "Agreeing With the Antisemites?: A 1931 Rabbinic Sermon and Its Repercussions in the Montreal Jewish Community" (Department of Religion, Concordia University, ACJS)

Steven Lapidus, "Montreal Rabbinic Strife in Mid-Century" (Department of Religion, Concordia University, CSJS)

Justin Jaron Lewis, "A Hasidic Rebbe's Teachings and His Followers: A Canadian Example" (Department of

Religion, University of Manitoba, CSJS)

Presiding Chair: Andrea Gondos (Department of Religion, Concordia University)

#### 3:00–4:30 P.M.: session 3 | CHAVA ROSENFARB

Rebecca Margolis, "Chava Rosenfarb's Experiences of Yiddish in Montreal" (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Ottawa)

Esther Frank, "The Loneliness of the Yiddish Writer" (Department of Jewish Studies, McGill University)

Goldie Morgentaler, "The Poetry of Chava Rosenfarb: The Joyful Drabness of the Everyday" (Dept. of English, University of Lethbridge)

Presiding Chair: Sherry Simon (Département d'études françaises, Concordia University)

#### 6:00 P.M.: ACJS banquet (with advance ticket purchase only\*)

Presentation of the 2010 ACJS Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award to Eiran Harris, Archivist Emeritus of the Jewish Public Library Archives, Ernie & Ellie's Place restaurant

\*Conference delegates may purchase tickets via the Congress website. A limited number of tickets are also available at a cost of \$36.00 at the front desk of the Jewish Public Library. Information: Ira Robinson (514) 848-2424 ext. 2074 | [robinso@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:robinso@alcor.concordia.ca).

### MONDAY, MAY 31 | CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

LOCATION: ROOM MB S1-430

Monday and Tuesday sessions are open to registered delegates of the Congress for Humanities and Social Sciences only.

#### 9:00–10:30 A.M.: Annual General Meeting, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

#### 10:30–11:00 A.M.: Coffee break



**11:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M.: session 4 | ACJS – CSJS JOINT PANEL: JEWISH-QUÉBÉCOIS RELATIONSHIPS**

Barry Stiefel, "The Synagogues of Louisiana and Quebec: A Comparison of Ashkenazic Immigrant Houses of Worship in Anglo-Franco Cultural Environments, circa 1865-1920" (Historic Preservation Program, College of Charleston, ACJS)

Pierre Anctil, "H.M. Caiserman critique littéraire du Canada français" (Department of History, University of Ottawa, CSJS)

Sharon Gubbay Helfer, "Rome Among the Bishops: A preliminary investigation of David Rome's dialogue with French Québec" (Faculté de théologie et de sciences des religions, Université de Montréal, ACJS)

Presiding Chair: Ira Robinson (Department of Religion, Concordia University)

**12:30–1:30 P.M.: Lunch break**

**1:30–3:00 P.M.: session 5 | ACJS – CSJS JOINT PANEL: CANADIAN HOLOCAUST STUDIES**

Richard Menkis, "Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath's Responses to Nazi Germany, 1933-1936" (Department of History, University of British Columbia, ACJS)

Anna Sheftel and Stacey Zembrzycki, "'We Created Our Own Social': The New World Club and Social Spaces Led by Holocaust Survivors in Post-War Montreal" (The Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling Department of History Concordia University, ACJS)

Adara Goldberg, "'Keeping the Faith': Religiosity as a Factor in the Resettlement of Orthodox Jewish Survivors in Post-World War II Canada" (Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University, CSJS)

Presiding Chair: Franklin Bialystok (Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto)

**3:30–5:00 P.M.: session 6 | ROUNDTABLE: JEWS/ MULTICULTURALISM/CANADA**

Michele Byers (Dept. of Sociology & Criminology, St. Mary's University), David S. Koffman (Departments of History, Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University), Sheryl Nestel (Department of Sociology and Equity Studies, OISE-University of Toronto), Stephanie Tara Schwartz (Department of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Ottawa)

Respondents: Richard Menkis (Department of History, University of British Columbia), Norman Ravvin (Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies, Concordia University)

**ONGOING: EXHIBIT OF 75 YEARS OF MONTREAL'S JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL MB 3-225**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 1 | CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY**

LOCATION: ROOM MB S1-430

Monday and Tuesday sessions are open to registered delegates of the Congress for Humanities and Social Sciences only.

**8:30–10:30 A.M.: Open Board Meeting, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies**

**10:30–11:00 A.M.: Coffee break**

**11:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M.: session 7 | THE BOUNDARIES OF JEWISHNESS**

Stephanie Tara Schwartz, "Jewish Beginnings and Boundaries" (Department of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Ottawa)

Shelly Nixon, "Menorahs in the Museum: Exploring the Boundaries of Jewishness in Canadian Museums" (Department of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Ottawa)

Presiding Chair: Susan Landau-Chark (The Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies, Carleton University)

**12:00–1:00 P.M.: Lunch break**

**1:00–2:30 P.M.: session 8 | NEW DIRECTIONS IN CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES**

Phil Gold, "A Canadian Labour Zionist's Cure for the Summer-time Blues" (Independent Researcher, Toronto)

Susan Landau-Chark, "Challenging Stereotypes: Riotous Behaviours for a Righteous Cause" (The Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies, Carleton University)

Robin Bergart, "48-Year-Old Culturally Jewish (But Not Practicing) Bacon-Lover Seeks Woman for a Long-Term Relationship" (McLaughlin Library, University of Guelph)

Presiding Chair: Randal Schnoor (Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies, York University)

**2:45–4:15 P.M.: session 9 | CANADIAN JEWISH ARCHIVES OUT LOUD**

Chair: Janice Rosen, CJCCCNA, Montreal

Shannon Hodge, JPL Archives, Montreal

Laurie Dougherty, Ottawa Jewish Archives, Ottawa

Ava Block-Super, JHCWC, Winnipeg

Agi Romer Segal, JHS of Southern Alberta, Calgary

Jennifer Yuhasz, JHS of BC, Vancouver

**4:30–5:30 P.M.: Annual General Meeting, Canadian Society of Jewish Studies ■**



## CALL FOR PAPERS

Submissions are invited for an online periodical

### **WOMEN IN JUDAISM: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL**

<http://www.womeninjudaism.org>

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 e-mail 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  
E-mail: [dina.eylon@utoronto.ca](mailto:dina.eylon@utoronto.ca)

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 Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies

# 2010-2011 Fellowships & Awards

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 30 APRIL 2010**

## Institute Graduate Fellowships in Canadian Jewish Studies

**\$5,000** for M.A. study / **\$7,500** for Ph.D. study

Must be a full-time student in an M.A. or a Ph.D. programme at Concordia University.  
Major portion of study devoted to the Canadian Jewish Experience.

## Yaacov Zipper Award

**\$1,000**

Students working on Jewish Studies with a preference given to those planning to use the archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee in Montreal.

## Naim Mahlab Fellowship

**\$7,500** (approximate value, 2 annual awards)

M.A. or Ph.D. work in Canadian Jewish Studies

(Preference for work related to anti-Semitism and its roots)

## Romek Hornstein Memorial Award

**\$3,100** (approximate value, 2 annual awards)

M.A. or Ph.D. work in any area of Jewish Studies

## Wetstein Fellowship

**\$1,250**

M.A. or Ph.D. work in Canadian Jewish Studies



### Application Details

Please submit the following to the Institute by the 30th of April, 2010

- Application Form (available at [www.concordia.ca/jchair](http://www.concordia.ca/jchair) or office SB-215)
- 500-word letter / essay of introduction. Include information on work completed to date, and plan of future research, relevance of your academic programme to the study of the award in question, summary of thesis
- Current CV
- Copies of your written or published work related to the particular award
- All undergraduate and graduate transcripts
- At least 2 letters of reference from suitable sources

Awards are also based on academic achievements. Applicants must be full-time students.

**To request an application form and/or additional information, please contact:**

The Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies SB-215

Concordia University, SB-215, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal, QC, H3G 1M8

Tel.: (514) 848-2424 ext. 8760; E-mail: [cjs@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:cjs@alcor.concordia.ca)

**Information: [www.concordia.ca/jchair](http://www.concordia.ca/jchair)**





**Association of Canadian Jewish Studies  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 25, 2009, 8:30 a.m.-11:12 a.m.**

**Held during the ACJS annual conference, Carleton University, Loeb Building  
Monday, May 25, 2009**

**CHAIR:** Randal Schnoor, President

**PRESENT:** Julian Bauer, (Sarah Bauer), Robin Bergart, Frank Bialystok, Susan Landau-Chark [outgoing secretary], Phil Gold, Ginger Hegedus, Faith Jones, Bernard Katz [treasurer], David Koffman, Rebecca Margolis, Ira Robinson, Janice Rosen [incoming secretary], Stephanie T. Schwartz, Asher Schechter, (Miriam Schechter), Barry Stiefel, Daniel Stone, Tanhum Yoreh.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 9:16 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Following the changing of the spelling of the name "Scheff" to "Sheff," on a motion by Ira Robinson, seconded by Phil Gold, the 2008 minutes were approved. There was no other business arising from last year's minutes.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** (Randal Schnoor)

The conference was well attended during the Sunday community day, with 60-75 people in the morning and around 90 at its peak. Congratulations were given to Rebecca Margolis, conference coordinator. It was reiterated that it is now necessary to be a member already in order to present a paper, and it is obligatory to register for the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

**Update on the Canadian Jewish Studies Journal**

Three issues of the Journal are almost "in press" at this time and will be ready within weeks. Volume 13-14 (2005-2006) is being produced jointly with the journal of *Jewish History* and consists of the proceedings of the Conference: 'A Skilled Tongue': Sermon & Society in the Canadian Jewish Experience held at the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue, in Montreal, October 2004. Volume 15 is dated 2007, followed by Volume 16 (2008), which are the papers presented at the Graduate Student Colloquium on Québec/Canadian Jewish Studies/Colloque Étudiant Sur Les Études Juives Québécoises/Canadiennes November 2004, held at Concordia University. Randal noted that Volume 16 would be completed by Rebecca Margolis as part of the transition to her undertaking the role of editor of the CJS Journal.

Michael Brown was thanked for his years of dedication as journal editor, noting that the position does not garner the recognition it deserves. Rebecca noted that Volume 17 (2009) will be on the theme of Yiddish in Canada and is to appear in 2010. She also noted that plans are in place for several subsequent volumes.

Frank Bialystok moved to accept the President's Report. The motion was seconded by Bernard Katz and passed.

**ONLINE JOURNAL REPORT:** Robin Bergart

Robin raised the issue of online access, as under the present ACJS policy governing online access to the CJS journal the two most recent volumes are not accessible unless one is a member (and members have access to the print journals). At present there is no open access beyond CJS journal 2004.

The issue of the two-year embargo on online access was raised by Rebecca Margolis. Faith Jones questioned the value of the embargo, emphasizing the importance of visibility. Robin noted that people are more open to being online now – libraries now are encouraging online use of journals. Rebecca moved and Janice Rosen seconded that the ACJS lift the embargo on the online journal and that new journals be available online.

Discussion: Bernie noted that the CJS Journal is indexed and that these indices are online so that the journals are accessible. Bernie noted that at present institutions (libraries) are not charged more (than individuals) for the CJS publications. He noted that over half of the ACJS membership is people who are not connected to an institution. He made the suggestion that the embargo be changed to reflect the two most recent years as opposed to the two most recent issues and noted that the lack of publication is a key reason why membership has dropped: in this past year only 88 had renewed by December, 81 still had not renewed in spring. By not putting the last two years of the Journal online for non-members to access, it encourages membership.

Bernard Katz noted that of the 160 to 180 members, only around 35 come to conferences, making the Journal their primary link to the Association. He felt that the Association

would lose members if the Journal was open-access. Faith noted that the journal (as representative of Canadian Jewish scholarship) needs to be available to the larger world and this in turn would generate greater participation in the organization. Barry commented that many universities are no longer spending the money for print journals, especially those outside Canada, which leaves scholars of Canadian Jewish studies with few and often out-of-date resources. Barry also noted that the delay in publication of the journal inhibits young scholars from submitting their work as they need to be assured that their works will be in print in a timely fashion – especially for those seeking tenure. He also noted that because the journal is currently available online only up to 2004, the Association looks very sick and inactive. Frank Bialystok, Robin Bergart and Rebecca all opined that the embargo should be lifted, seeing this as an encouragement to membership rather than the source of potential decline. Daniel Stone noted that a complete lack of delay may create problems but that the period could be shortened to one calendar year, or with different deadlines for libraries. Faith also raised the issue of young scholars wanting to be published sooner in order to affect their hiring and tenure. She offered to work with Bernie to locate grants for online publications (to offset any potential membership losses.) The question was raised as to the indexing of this journal among other online journals, but this is only done for publications containing eight or more peer-reviewed articles. It was suggested that a link be requested going from the online journals site to the ACJS journal site. Bernard Katz moved to table the motion pending acquiring more information on the issues raised until the next annual meeting in Montreal (2010). (Not seconded.)

Ira Robinson called the question. Rebecca moved that ACJS lift the Canadian Jewish Studies embargo for all future issues except where there are legal constraints against doing so, making it available to all users. The motion to lift the embargo, seconded by Janice Rosen, passed (15 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention).

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT: (Bernard Katz)**

The date of sending out the fall bulletin was tied to the arrival of membership renewals. Two years of renewals must be averaged to gain a proper idea of membership fee income. If this is done, we had a small (5%) increase in membership revenue from 2006/07 to 2007/08.

It was noted that several grants and donations were secured to help fund the community day sessions at both last and this year's conferences and that this practice should be followed each year. The increases in financial assets for 2008 and 2007 versus previous years relates to whether any journal issues were published in each year. In 2009, for example, we will be spending close to \$12,000 to publish what amounts to three

issues, while for the past two years we did not publish any (though there were editorial costs). Bernie also noted that the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia had again provided the Association with clerical help from a graduate student in 2008, in keeping with its commitment to hosting the Association's address of record. For the 2010 proposed budget, Bernie said he had projected modest increases in revenue, together with moderate conference expenses reflecting its Montreal location, as well as the publication of volume 16 (2008) of the journal. Rebecca applauded Bernie for his work, which was unanimously agreed upon. On a motion by Bernie to accept the financial report, seconded by Phil Gold, the resolution was passed.

Bernie moved to appoint Silver and Goren as our auditors for 2009. Seconded by Julian Bauer, the motion was passed. Bernie moved to appoint Jerry Silver as an honorary member of the Association and the Executive Committee. Seconded by Frank Bialystok, the motion was passed.

#### **CONFERENCE REPORT: (Rebecca Margolis)**

Rebecca reported that overall it was a pleasant experience in that people had been co-operative, but she would do the banquet tickets differently. Next year's conference in Montreal (Concordia University) needs someone, preferably a local person, to organize the community day. Possible venues include the Jewish Public Library, the CJC building (Samuel Bronfman Concordia building) or a synagogue. Rebecca will handle the academic side of the conference but would like some others to help vet the submitted papers. David Koffman offered to be a reader. Bernie noted that it is the one time of year when the Association gathers together and that it takes a lot of effort to be on top of everything. On a motion by Faith, seconded by Frank Bialystok, the Conference Report was approved.

#### **ACJS BULLETIN REPORT: Phil Gold**

There were some problems with the newsletter over the past year. Susan and Barry will help Phil with it in the coming year. On a motion by Rebecca, seconded by David Koffman, the resolution was passed.

#### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

(Bernard Katz in the absence of Daniel Maoz)

There are currently 169 members, of which 146 are from Canada, 20 from the U.S., and three from other countries. The membership high point was around 300 (10 years ago) and the lowest point around 140 (2005-2006). The membership database is currently maintained by a graduate student employed by the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia. Daniel Maoz, the current membership chair, may

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be withdrawing as of this year. The motion was made to approve the membership report and to thank Daniel Maoz and the graduate student (Julie Campbell-Such) for their work. On a motion by Faith Jones, seconded by David Koffman, the resolution was passed.

**NOMINATION REPORT:** (Frank Bialystok)  
Proposed slate for 2009-2010 read out by Frank:

**Executive and Board of Directors:**

Officers:

President: Randal Schnoor

Vice President: Susan Landau-Chark

Treasurer: Bernard Katz

Secretary: Janice Rosen

Past President: Norm Ravvin

Executive Committee: (Officers are also members)

Journal Editor: Rebecca Margolis

Bulletin Editor: Phil Gold

Chair, Communities and Archives: Janice Rosen

Chair, Membership: Daniel Maoz

Chair, Programs (and Conference): Rebecca Margolis

Book Review Editor: Ira Robinson

Chair, Academic Committee: Open

Chair, Finance: Open

Chair, Nominations: Susan Landau-Chark

Honorary Officer: Jerry Silver

Board Members for 2009-2012

Stanley Asher (QC), David Koffman (New York), Seymour Mayne (ON), Richard Menkis (BC), Stuart Schoenfeld (ON), Stephanie Schwartz (ON), William Shaffir (ON), Henry Srebnick (PEI), Ronnie Tessler (BC), Morton Weinfeld (QC)

Board Members for 2009-2011

Pierre Anctil (ON), Abraham Arnold (MB), Dana Herman (QC), Eve Lerner (QC), Edward Mickelson (AB), Lara Rabinovitch (New York)

Board Members for 2009-2010

Robin Bergart (ON), Gary Davis (NB), Lilith Finkler (ON), Nora Gold (ON), Nicole Libin (AB), Messod Salama (NF), Barbara Schober (ON), Alisa Siegal (ON), Roz Usiskin (MB), Barbara Weiser (QC)

On a motion by Frank and seconded by David Koffman, it was resolved to extend Randy's and Bernie's terms for another year. On a motion by Frank, seconded by Bernie, it was resolved to accept the proposed slate for 2009-2010.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Randal, the AGM (2009) meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

**Association of Canadian Jewish Studies  
Open Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 26, 2009, 9:00 a.m.-10:29 a.m.**

**Held during the ACJS annual conference, Carleton University, Loeb Building  
Tuesday, May 26, 2009**

**CHAIR:** Randal Schnoor, President

**PRESENT:** Susan Landau-Chark, Phil Gold, Faith Jones, Bernard Katz (treasurer), David Koffman, Rebecca Margolis, Richard Menkis, Ira Robinson, Janice Rosen (secretary), Barry Stiefel, Hesh Troper, Barbara Weiser, Tanhum Yoreh

**CALL TO ORDER:** 8:50 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Moved by Richard Menkis and seconded by Randal Schnoor, the 2008 Vancouver minutes were approved.

**RECAP OF PREVIOUS DAY'S PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

(Randal Schnoor)

Topics from the day before were reviewed for members who were not present at the AGM. Montreal members including Ira and Janice will consult regarding the issue of the Montreal community day for next year's conference. Rebecca will still be responsible for program and will liaise with Montreal Conference co-ordinators (once established).

**JOURNAL ISSUES:**

Randal noted that we are at a historic turning point with the journal, with younger scholars and new energy. Richard

pointed out that the issue of online access to the Journal will be complicated in the case of the sermons conference issue (volume 13-14, 2005-2006), being published by Springer, a company that does not allow such access, but explained that this could be circumvented by allowing access to "previous versions" of the papers even if the versions are only minimally different. Robin is to be contacted regarding the posting of "earlier versions" of the Springer publication. Volume 15 (2007) will be coming out as a single journal and should be out in under two months.

Rebecca is completing the remaining work to be done on Volume 16 (the student conference volume, 2008) and taking it to press. She argued for making Volume 17, the Yiddish issue, a double volume so that it becomes 2009-2010, bringing the series up to date, which will encourage scholarship.

Discussion addressed the number of papers needed to make up a double volume, and the desirability of members usually receiving a volume every year. Double issues have ISBN numbers and look more like books. Rebecca also noted that she would like to move as much of the production as possible to Ottawa as well as give the journal a facelift.

Bernie noted that the two best publishers for journals are both located in Manitoba – Hignell and Freissan – and offered to compare the two companies as well as to compare their "print on demand" costs. Rebecca raised the issue of hiring a student research assistant for a few hours to help with the journal. (She will monitor the student's work.)

#### **NEWSLETTER ISSUES: (Bernie)**

The bulletin fulfils a different role from the journal's, being the main point of contact with the Association for members not involved in academics. The current bulletin is struggling and is not always up to date with news of current research and publications. Minutes and conference reports could also be featured here, but they are less important than the news elements. For the coming year, Susan will be co-editor along with Phil.

#### **FUNDRAISING ISSUES:**

David Koffman raised the question of fundraising goals. Barbara Weiser spoke to the question of fundraising and what could be done further with more help from the membership database. Barbara instituted a new membership category (\$180.00) for university institutions, to differentiate from that of the "affiliated societies" which has the rate of \$50.00. Two donors were approached to fund scholarships for students, though one has dropped out in the present year.

The membership list, when updated, could be used for fundraising by circulating it to Board members for suggestions.

It was also noted that ideally fundraising should be done by someone who is *not* on the Board. Barbara agreed to step back in as fundraising chair.

The main issues are to raise enough funds to maintain a cushion, the website and a web manager, and to raise funds without worrying over membership.

#### **MEMBERSHIP ISSUES:**

David Koffman raised the question of how to increase membership. It was noted that the membership database is currently inefficient and has to be improved.

Janice offered to take it over, possibly using the Filemaker data base program at CJCCC, although there may be a need to leave the banking elements with Ira at Concordia and therefore continue the services of the student who helps him with the Association's administrative work.

Ira and Janice will meet to discuss working something out in this regard, including perhaps involving Olivia at the Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies or by having membership information transferred through Concordia internal mail to the Concordia Samuel Bronfman Building, where Janice works.

#### **"WISH LIST" COMMITTEE:**

David Koffman proposed the formation of an ad hoc strategic planning or "wish list" committee as a way of exploring future directions for the Association where the amount of available funding is not an issue. On a motion from Randal, seconded by Rebecca, the ad hoc committee was formed and is to consist of David Koffman (chair), with Frank Bialystok, Rebecca Margolis, and Barbara Weiser. The committee agreed to meet immediately following the Board meeting.

#### **REVISIONS TO BOARD: (Frank)**

The present Board contains members who renew but are completely inactive. The issue of reducing the size of the Board was raised and will be discussed at the strategic planning meeting. Bernie will look into by-law issues with regard to Board composition.

#### **REVISION TO AGM:**

It was decided that the next AGM would be scheduled as two hours instead of one and a half, so as not to run into the subsequent session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Randal thanked the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies for supplying coffee and pastries during the two-day conference.

On a motion by Randal Schnoor, seconded by Rebecca Margolis, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m. ■



ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDES JUIVES CANADIENNES

c/o DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY  
1455 DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD. WEST  
MONTREAL, QUEBEC H3G 1M8

# ACJS/AEJC AFFILIATED SOCIETIES & INSTITUTIONS

(Asterisks denote institutional members)

## Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives

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Janice Rosen, CJCCC National Archives Director  
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## Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton & Northern Alberta

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Debby Shocter, Archivist  
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Email: [jahsena@shaw.ca](mailto:jahsena@shaw.ca)  
Website: <http://www.jahsena.ca>

## Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada

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## Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia

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## Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

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Katherine Biggs-Kraft, Curator  
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