



Israel and Golda Koschitzky
Centre for Jewish Studies
at York University
המרכז ללימודי היהדות

Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

Annual Conference 2026

Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies
York University
763 Kaneff Tower, 4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON

DRAFT PROGRAM

Sunday, May 31, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Kaneff Tower, Rm. 519

9 – 9:15 a.m. **Opening Remarks**

9:15 – 10:30 a.m. **The Jewish Experience through the Arts: *Tête-à-tête: Conversations in Canadian Jewish Studies Live***

Host Jonathan Slater, in conversation with Evelyn Tauben (Fenster/SHVILIM)

10:30 – 11 a.m. **Break**

11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Roundtable: Life in the Literary and the (Re-)Emergence of *Parchment***

Orly Zebak (*Parchment*), in conversation with *Parchment* board members Gary Barwin and Cynthia Good. Followed by a reading of “Three Stars,” by spring 2026 issue contributor Hannah Warry-Smith

12:15 – 1:15 p.m. **Lunch**

1:15 – 2:30 p.m. **Taking Root in Toronto: Narratives of Inclusion and Exclusion**

Moderator: Sterling Stutz (University of Toronto)

Elliot Fonarev (University of Toronto), “Bageling Interrupted: How Toronto Jews Navigate Belonging in an Unsettled Time”

Noah Draper (Toronto Metropolitan University), “The Difference Now is We’re Not Running: Exploring Narratives of Family History among Third Generation Holocaust Descendants in Toronto”

Luke F. Langille (Concordia University), “Hovels, Hunchbacks, and Hegemony: Racializing Jews in Scheunenviertel and the St. John’s Ward”

Kelly Train (Toronto Metropolitan University), “Indian Jewish Women in Canada and the Preservation of Indian Jewish Cultural Identities and Religious Traditions Through Food”

2:30 – 3:45 p.m. **Workshop: AI-Aided Research in Canadian Jewish Studies**

Ledy by David S. Koffman (York University) and Sidney Shapiro (University of Lethbridge)

3:45 – 4 p.m. **Break**

4 – 4:15 p.m. **President’s Remarks**

4:15 – 4:30 p.m. **Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award Presentation**

The 2026 Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award will be presented to:

Sheldon and Judy Godfrey

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. **Fifty Years of Canadian Jewish Studies: A Roundtable with Past Winners of the Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award**

Norman Ravvin (Concordia University), in conversation with Ruth Panofsky (Toronto Metropolitan University), Janice Rosen (Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives), Randal Schnoor (York University), and Richard Menkis (University of British Columbia)

Monday, June 1, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Kaneff Tower, Rm. 519

8 – 9:45 a.m. **ACJS Annual General Meeting**

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Break**

10:00 – 11:15 a.m. **Recollections of Montreal**

Moderator: Jonathan Slater (SUNY-Plattsburgh)

Lisa Grushcow (Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom), “Stern’s Sermons: A Half Century of Homiletics from the Reform Rabbi of Montreal”

Jonah Fried (B’nai Brith Canada), “McGill University’s Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1963-1973: Historical Memory and the 2024 Gaza War Encampments”

Célestin Stengelin (UQAM), « Les Juifs et leurs établissements médicaux à Montréal : l’intégration par institution »

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Gender and Orthodoxies Shaping Canadian Judaism**

Moderator: Valentina Gaddi (Université de Montréal)

Deirdre Butler (Carleton University) and Betina Appel Kuzmarov (Carleton University),
“Orthodox?: Troubling Orthopraxy, Gender, and the Experience of Jewish Divorce in Canada”

Valentina Gaddi (Université de Montréal) and Alexandra Stankovich (Université de Sherbrooke),
“Embodying the Hasidic Experience: Gender Norms From Within and the Margins of
Orthodoxy”

Chumie Juni (Carleton College), “I Found the Answer”: Discourses of Torah Study among
Canadian Ultra-Orthodox Women”

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch and Learn: A Mensch and a Scholar: A Tribute to Adam
Fuerstenberg**

Natalia Vesselova (University of Ottawa), in conversation with Norman Ravvin (Concordia
University), Edward Trapunski (Canadian Jewish Literary Awards), Bernard Katz (University of
Guelph), Seymour Mayne (University of Ottawa), and Zach Fuerstenberg.

1:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Border Crossings: The Jewish Pro-Soviet Left in North America**

Moderator: Robert Zecker (St. Francis Xavier University)

Ester Reiter (York University), “Ties that Bind: The Jewish Left in Canada and the United
States”

Henry Srebrnik (University of Prince Edward Island), “Chaim Zhitlowsky and Secular Jewish
Diaspora Nationalism in Canada and the United States”

Elissa Sampson (Cornell University), “Heading Left and South: US and Canadian Connection,
1930–1950”

2:45 – 3 p.m. **Break**

3 – 4:15 p.m. **Writing Yiddish in Canada**

Moderator: TBD

Vivian Felsen (Independent), “The Forgotten Yiddish Writer Aleph Almi (1892-1963) and His
Impact on Yiddish Culture in Toronto and Montreal from 1918 through the 1920s”

Katarzyna Grabowska (Independent), “‘A Love Affair with Yiddish Letters’: Biographical Essay
on Gershon Pomerantz”

Miriam Borden (University of Toronto), “Between Empire and Desire: The Tone of
Revolutionary Suspension in Nepom’s Poetry”

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. **On the Jewish Streets of Toronto: A Kensington Market Walking Tour,**
location TBD, with Miriam Borden

Tuesday, June 2, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., York Lanes, Rm. 280N

8:30 – 9:45 a.m. Retrieving the Holocaust

Moderator: Yasmine Lucas (University of Toronto)

Adara Goldberg (Kean University), “‘Working Quietly and Persistently’: Locating Aged Holocaust Survivors in Canadian Jewish Archives”

Katrina Hermann (University of British Columbia), “A Day to Remember: Developing the Holocaust High School Symposium, 1976-1983”

Richard Menkis (University of British Columbia), “Spatial de-Nazification: Canadians and the Reconsecration of the Synagogue in Nijkerk, April 1945”

9:45 – 10 a.m. Break

10 – 11:15 a.m. Sources of Remembrance

Moderator: Noam Lemish (York University)

Hernan Tesler-Mabé (Huron University), “The Shoah Remembered, Musically”

Marco Chiaretti (Sapienza University of Rome), “Belonging After Testimony: Canadian Jewish Memory Beyond the Survivor Era

Diego Rotman (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), “Ensembled Memories: On the Dora Wasserman Theatre/Archives (Montreal)”

Miranda Crowdus (Concordia University), “Sonic Heritage Diversity: Songs of Middle Eastern and North African Jews in Montreal”

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Political Pluralism, Cultural Belonging, and Canadian Jewish Identity

Moderator: TBD

Randal Schnoor (York University), “Widening the Tent? Navigating Non-Zionist Identity in Jewish Canada”

Simone Grossman (Bar-Ilan University), « Déconnexion et ruptures chez les Hassidiques de Montréal »

Marcin Janczak (University of Toronto), « La femme hassidique entre deux mondes – salut ou condamnation ? La voix féminine, le tabou et l’amour interdit dans *Hadassa*, *Yiosh!* et *Félix et Meira* »

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch and Learn: *From Popular Front to Cold War: The Interracial Left and the International Workers Order, 1930–1954***

A conversation with Elissa Sampson (Cornell University), Henry Srebrnik (University of Prince Edward Island), and Robert Zecker (St. Francis Xavier University)

1:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Evoking the Holocaust**

Moderator: Adara Goldberg (Kean University)

Nathalie Dolbec (University of Windsor), « *Un air de parenté dans le descriptif d’Eva et Ruda : récit à deux voix de survivants de l’Holocauste d’Eva et Rudolph Roden* »

Anna Sheftel (Concordia University), “The Untold Story of Holocaust Survivor Activism: The Association of Survivors of Nazi Oppression (ASNO)”

Barbara Weiser (Independent), “Canadian Holocaust Memorials: Mourning a Painful Chapter in Jewish History”

2:45 – 3 p.m. **Break**

3 – 4:15 p.m. **Canadian Jewish Lives in Transition**

Moderator: TBD

Jordan Molot (Concordia University), “Jewish Woman, Atlantic Subject: Life, Love, and Labour in the Letters of Dorothea Judah Hart”

Irving Rosen (Independent), “Abraham Isadore Willinsky: A Pioneer MD in Pioneer Toronto”

Janis Rosen (Independent), “Louis Rubenstein: The Father of Canadian Figure Skating”

4:15 – 5:30 **Contending with Antisemitism in a Canadian Context**

Moderator: Jonathan Slater (SUNY-Plattsburgh)

Sara Klein (UQAM), « La reconfiguration des relations entre l’État-nation canadien et les Juifs québécois dans un contexte de resurgence de l’antisemitisme »

Mia Theocharis (University of Toronto), “Shared Responsibility: The Canadian Council of Christians and Jews and the Postwar Struggle Against Antisemitism in Ontario and Quebec”

Irina Levit (York University), “Antisemitism on Quebec Campuses Pre- and Post-10/7”