New Chairs in Jewish Studies at Canadian Universities

Concordia University

Concordia University’s faculty of arts and science has appointed Norman Ravvin as the first chair in Quebec and Canadian Jewish Studies. A native of Calgary, Ravvin joins Concordia’s department of religion from the University of New Brunswick where he taught in the English department. He has an extensive background in Jewish Studies, focused primarily on Jewish literature and literature of the Holocaust. In addition to his teaching and research duties, Ravvin will be responsible for outreach, with particular attention paid to Montreal’s Jewish community.

Queen’s University

Gerald Tulchinsky has been appointed chair of Jewish Studies at Queen’s University for a term from Sept. 1, 1999, to June 30, 2002. Born is Stratford Ontario, Tulchinsky attended the University of Toronto and McGill University and graduated with a Ph.D. from Toronto in 1971. He taught at Loyola College, Montreal and the University of Saskatchewan before coming to Queen’s in 1966. He teaches courses on urbanization, the Jewish experience in North America and the Holocaust.
President’s Message
Mot du President
Ira Robinson, Concordia

De Nouveau à l'archive juive canadienne de Montréal
Certes un des institutions les plus importants pour l'étude de la communauté juive canadienne est l'archive juive canadienne de Montréal. Dans les dernières mois, on constate plusieurs changements dans cet Archive. Après ces changements, on espère que l'archive gagnerait des conditions plus solides et serait plus rélevant pour les académiques et pour le grand public que jamais. Présentement, l'archive est située dans le bâtiment Bronfman qui était, jusqu'à présent, le siège principal du Congrès juif canadien. Maintenant, ce bâtiment est transféré à l'Université Concordia. Ce transfert a un bon potentiel pour le futur, car l'archive aura un fort connection au monde universitaire, et, dans le passé récent, c'est les universités canadiens qui étaient le source de la plupart des recherches significatif sur la communauté juive canadienne. De plus, Concordia est un des deux universités canadiens avec des chaires et programmes dans les études juives canadiennes. Le fait que le programme des études juives canadiennes de Concordia aura ses bureaux dans le même endroit créera, sans doute, une nouvelle synergie qui a le potentiel d'augmenter les recherches académiques importants dans notre spécialité. Après le période de transition, l'archive, appuyé encore par le Congrès juif canadien, aura probablement plus d’espace pour augmenter ses collections. Aussi, les efforts de Norma Joseph, présidente du comité national du Congrès sur les archives, en personne et par le courriel, ont bâti un comité fort représentant tous les grands communautés juives canadiennes, qui contemple des nouveaux initiatives, incluant une renouvellement des publications de l'archive. Notre Association, comme tous les individus et organisations qui veulent renforcer les études juives canadiennes, doit encourager tous ces développements. Notre seul agenda communautaire est d'appuyer l'archive Montréalais et toutes les autres ressources archivales pour l'étude de la communauté juive canadienne.

New Times at the Canadian Jewish Archives
One of the most important institutions for the study of the Canadian Jewish experience, to which this Association is dedicated, is the Canadian Jewish Archives in Montreal. The CJA has been undergoing considerable change in recent months and is likely to come out stronger and more relevant than ever. In the first place, the building in which the CJA is housed has changed hands. Formerly the national headquarters of Canadian Jewish Congress, the Bronfman Building in Montreal has been donated to Concordia University. This is a situation with great potential. While still supported financially by Canadian Jewish Congress, the Archives will now be connected with an academic institution, and it is from academic institutions that most of the recent scholarship on the Canadian Jewish experience has emanated. Moreover, Concordia is one of the two universities in Canada possessing programmes and chairs in Canadian Jewish studies. The fact that Concordia’s Chair in this field will have its offices in the same building promises to create a new synergy which will be good for the entire field. Once the dust clears from the transition, CJA will also find itself with more space to expand its collections and become even more relevant for research in the field. Through the efforts of Norma Joseph, Congress’ National Archives Chair, and through the medium of email, a strong nationwide committee is in place to contemplate new initiatives, including a renewal of the CJA’s publications program. It need hardly be said that all these developments are applauded by all those supporting the serious study of the Canadian Jewish community. To the extent that our Association has a political agenda within our community, it is to support and encourage this and all other archival resources of Canadian Jewry.

Jewish TV Programming in Canada, 1999-2000

Israel Today - Sundays 9pm - Crossroads Television Station (CTS)

Passages - Sunday 1pm and (repeated at) 10pm - CTS

Judaism: A Quest for Meaning - Wed 8:30pm - Vision TV

CONTEST

The editors of the Canadian Jewish Studies Bulletin encourage feedback from its readers. To begin the process we ask the following trivia ‘Canadian Jewish Studies Trivia Question’. Send your answers by e-mail to:
<rschno@po-box.mcgill.ca>

In what year did the Jews of Canada establish their first official religious congregation?

A draw will be held including all correct submissions. A prize of relevance to Canadian Jewish Studies will be awarded.
Keeping in touch

Research Updates

I have recently been appointed Adjunct Professor of Jewish Studies at McGill. A paper I delivered at the Association for Canadian University Teachers of English, “The Image of the Jew in Canadian Fiction,” will be published by Shofar. In addition I am editing the Canadian volume of Contemporary Jewish Writing for the University of Nebraska Press.

Michael Greenstein

Our research and writing focuses on human rights campaigns in Ontario from the 1940’s to the early 1970’s. We are especially interested in the role of Jewish organizations (such as the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Jewish Labour Committee) in pressing for legislation that would prohibit discrimination with regard to employment, housing, and public services. We welcome any suggestions other scholars may have.

Ruth Frager, History Dept., McMaster University, frager@mcmaster.ca
Carmela Patrias, History Dept., Brock University, cpatrias@spartan.ac.brocku.ca

I have served as Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Brandeis University, McGill University and since 1963 at SUNY at Buffalo. As a Canadian Jew (born in Montreal), and as the son of the Yiddish Poet, Ida Maze, I maintain an active interest in Canadian Jewish Studies. Some of my contributions to Canadian Jewish Studies include a chapter in Everyday Miracle (1990) entitled “Public Lives in Private: Ida Maze and the Montreal Yiddish Renaissance”, my 1994 book, Identity and Community: Reflections on English, Yiddish and French Literature in Canada, as well as a review essay on A.M. Klein in the 1995 Volume of Canadian Jewish Studies. I also recently delivered a lecture for the 80th anniversary of the Montreal Jewish Library entitled, “The Expatriate Quebec Jewish Experience.”

I have recently published a volume of poetry, entitled IR HANISTAR (City of the Hidden) (1998), which launched in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem last November. In Tel Aviv, the reception was hosted under the auspices of the Ambassador and Embassy of Canada. At the Hebrew University of Jerusalem the event was organized and hosted by the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies, Mount Scopus. Two 1999 Volumes, CARBON FILTER: Poems in Dedication and A RICH GARLAND: Poems for A.M. Klein (co-edited with B. Glen Rotchin) will be launched in October and November, 1999 at the National Library of Canada, Ottawa, and at Jewish Book Month activities in Toronto (Leah Posluns Theatre) and Montreal (Jewish Public Library).

Seymour Mayne

I am entering the eighth year as Director of Judaic Studies and the third year as Chair of the Division of Biblical & Theological Studies at Providence College. This is the second year of a four-year B.A. in Judaic & Christian Studies programme which I founded. It requires graduates to acquire Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic at an elementary/intermediate level, as well as satisfy requirements in Research and Teaching Assistantships, and write an undergraduate thesis.

Dennis Stoutenburg
Providence College

As Associate Professor of Art History at York University, I specialize in examining concepts of spatial politics of multiple cultures and national identities in architectural and urban sites.

During the 1999-2000 year, I will be speaking on artist Charlotte Salomon at the conference on Studies in Cultural Meaning II, at the University of Cergy-Pontoise, France and during Holocaust Education week on the same subject. I will also be at the Henry Moore Institute in Leeds speaking on The Invisible Jewish Topographies of Paris, and at the Berman Centre for Jewish Studies of Lehigh University for a symposium entitled: Representing the Holocaust: Practices, Products, Projections. In Toronto, I will speak at the Ontario Science Centre on Capturing Memory: Remembering the Holocaust in Architecture.

Shelley Hornstein, Associate Professor of Art and Architectural History, York University

I teach a course in “Medieval Jewish Literature” in the English department at Simon Fraser University. The course was designed and initiated by me, and is the only course on Jewish culture in the university curriculum. I have guest edited a special Jewish Studies issue of Exemplaria, the journal of theory in medieval studies. It will be out in March 2000 under the title “ ‘Turn it again: Jewish studies and literary theory.’ ” It features essays by such Jewish Studies luminaries as William C. Jordan, Dan Boyarin, Michael Chernick, Elliott Wolfson, Tova Rosen, and others. In addition, my paper “Chaucer and the Paris Jews, 1394” was given at the Kalamazoo International Medieval Congress in May 1999 and will be given at Ben Gurion U. of the Negev in February 2000.

Sheila Delany
Department of English
Simon Fraser University
Positions

University of Waterloo - Jewish Studies

The Faculty of Arts at the University of Waterloo, invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Jewish Studies. The anticipated start date is July 1, 2000. The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies and an excellent scholarship and teaching record. Duties will include teaching at the undergraduate level and the development and promotion of the Jewish Studies program at the university as well as in the larger community. Applications accompanied by a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees should be sent by December 31, 1999, to Dr. Paul Socken, Chair, Dean’s Advisory Committee on Jewish Studies, Modern Languages Building, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1 Canada. Fax 519-725-0554.

McGill University

Jewish Studies/Jewish Teacher Training

The Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Education, McGill University invite applications for a tenure stream joint appointment at the entry (Assistant Professor) level. The successful candidate will be qualified to teach courses in the area of Jewish Thought in the Department of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Arts and to Direct the Jewish Teacher Training Program in the Faculty of Education. Applicants should submit a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, and arrange for three letters of reference to be sent to: Professor Gershon Hundert, Chair, Department of Jewish Studies, McGill University, 3438 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 1X9. The last date for applications is November 1, 1999.

McGill University - Jewish Thought

The Department of Jewish Studies, McGill University, invites applications for an entry-level, tenure-track position in Jewish Thought beginning September 1, 2000. While the field is open, there is a preference for a candidate whose expertise will complement the existing teaching strengths of the Department. We seek a person who is an excellent teacher, willing and able to assume administrative responsibilities, and committed to research. The closing date for applications is September 10, 1999. For information on the Department, see our website: www.arts.mcgill.ca/programs/jewish/. Applicants should submit a letter of application and a curriculum vitae and arrange for three letters of reference to be sent to: Professor Gershon Hundert, Chair, Department of Jewish Studies, McGill University, 3438 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 1X9.

Scholarships

The Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies of Concordia University offers Graduate fellowships through the generosity of Charles and Andrew Bronfman and The Seagram Company Ltd. The Graduate Fellowship in Canadian Jewish Studies will be awarded each year on the basis of academic excellence, without citizenship restrictions, to full-time students in a Master’s/Magisteriate or Doctoral program at Concordia University in the humanities and the social sciences. Candidates must plan to devote a major portion of their studies to the Canadian Jewish experience. Deadlines are in the Spring of each year.
Calls for Papers

Please see page 8 of this newsletter for details of the upcoming ACJS*AEJC Annual Conference.

Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference: Millennia, Messiahs and Mayhem - Eschatology in the Western Tradition.
May 5-7, 2000 — University of British Columbia - Vancouver
Please submit a 500-word proposal, personal contact information, and a letter of introduction from your graduate advisor by the 30th of January 2000 to the Department of Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies, BUCH C260-1866 Main Mall, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V6T 1Z1, attention: Graduate Conference, or by e-mail to cners@hotmail.com. This conference is sponsored by the Department of Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies at the University of British Columbia and Green College.

Early Judaism/Jewish Studies Section, Society of Biblical Literature
Upper Mid-West Regional Meeting,
April 29-30, 2000 — St. Paul, Minnesota
Contact Dennis Stoutenburg, convenor: dstoutenburg@providence.mb.ca
*also see the SBL web-site for details on other sections in Biblical Studies and Theology with Call for Papers included: http://www.sbl-site.org

MISHPUCHA MURAL PROJECT

"Mishpucha," created by artists Belarie Zatzman and Suzanne Caines, is a collage of family photographs, memories and stories exploring Jewish identity, collected from children at Camp Kadimah in Nova Scotia during the summer of 1998.

In the last 6 months, the mural has been exhibited at Dalhousie University, as part of the Terezin Project and installed in the Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum with the support of Camp Kadimah and the Atlantic Jewish Council, Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto, Beth Tzedec Synagogue and York University.

The process of constructing the mural began with a letter sent to the home of each child, requesting photographs as well as stories about individuals in those photos. Literally hundreds of photographs arrived, of parents, grandparents, great and sometimes even great great grandparents. The narratives were written by the children themselves and/or parents who recorded family histories. The photographs, as well as the children's drawings and fragments of text were used together to help them explore their Jewish identity and to create this beautiful piece combining past and present.

This mixed media work utilizes charcoal, paint, handmade paper, screening and mylar, and includes four actual doors. The doors metaphorically create a text about passages, about generations, an invitation to the viewer to recall their own histories. There are eighteen (chai/ life) large scale figures in total. The figures slowly emerged; of fathers, mothers, sisters, daughters, sons and brothers. The inclusion of the children’s continued on page 7
REPORT ON OUR 1999 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
by Dr. Paula Draper

Our 1999 conference was held at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Montreal and Bishop’s University in Lennoxville, Quebec. Sessions were attended by ACJS members from across the country as well as guests from the Montreal Jewish community. Our opening session was an exciting talk by HAROLD TROPER, outlining the themes of his new book, THE RANSOMED OF GOD: THE REMARKABLE STORY OF ONE WOMAN’S ROLE IN THE RESCUE OF SYRIAN JEWS.

This year’s conference encompassed many themes. We began with a session on Canadian Zionism. GERALD TULCHINSKY spoke about Zionism in Canada during the interwar years, as outlined in his new book, BRANCHING OUT: THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE CANADIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. Gerry and LOUIS GREENSPAN then engaged in a spirited discussion of their personal experiences as teenagers from small Canadian Jewish communities on Machon in 1952-53. This was followed by a series of presentations reflecting the variety of approaches to Jewish Studies in Canada. MESSOD SALAMA shared his musical reflections on Judeo Spanish Folk Songs as a source of women’s spirituality. IRA ROBINSON shed light on the history of Rabbinic Culture in Montreal through the papers of Getsel Laxer. The afternoon ended with HOWARD GONTOVNICK’s look at Ste-Sophie’s Jewish community and it’s role as a major food supplier for Montreal. Prior to our annual Executive dinner meeting, STANLEY ASHER treated AJCS members to a detailed, enlightening, [and scrumptious] walking tour of Jewish Montreal.

Our second day began with several sociological perspectives on Canadian Jewry. STUART SCHOENFELD and GAIL MCCABE discussed their research on South African Jews in Canada from the perspectives of the politics of household labour, and the choices they have made in religious affiliation. With the provocative title, HOW TO SCHMOOZE WITH THE JEWS, RANDAL SCHNOOR, shared his experiences conducting qualitative research among the ultra-orthodox. Our first father and daughter presenters, ALISA and ARTHUR SIEGEL, followed the Sociologists with personal and critical reflections on the connections between the Jews of Trinidad and Canada. Using the case of Adolf Eichmann, ETIENNE-STEPHANE GIGNAC examined the attitude displayed by Le Devoir towards Jews in the 1960’s. Our last session paid tribute to the history of Jews in Sherbrooke. PAULA DRAKER illuminated the wartime story of German and Austrian Jewish refugees who spent several years in the Sherbrooke Internment Camp. MICHAEL BENAZON completed the annual conference with his insights into the writings of Malca and Ruby Friedman, Jewish women writers from Sherbrooke.

The variety of this year’s sessions once again illustrated the multi-disciplinary nature of our Association. All those in attendance were treated to a taste of the diversity of Canadian Jewish Studies, as we continued our tradition of encouraging students, scholars and members of the Canadian Jewish community to explore our rich history and culture.

Many thanks to Ira Robinson, Richard Menkis, Michael Benazon, and Hesh Troper for their assistance in organizing a very successful conference.
Recent Publications


Ronald Headland, ed. *So Others Will Remember: Holocaust History and Survivor Testimony* (Montreal, Vehicule Press, 1999)

Bruce Muirhead, *Against the Odds: the Public Life and times of Louis Rasminsky* (Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1999)


Michael Brown, “Good Fences Do Not Necessarily Make Good Neighbors: Jews and Judaism in Canada’s Schools and Universities” Jewish Political Studies Review, Volume 11, numbers 3-4 (Fall 5760/1999)


Yossi Katz and John C. Lehr, *The Last Best West: Essays on the Historical Geography of the Canadian Prairies* (Jerusalem, Magnes Press, 1999)


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ACJS • AEJC Membership Report

As of June 3, 1999 the ACJS has 353 names on its list.

144 members have paid their 1999 dues
(including 8 new members)

52 members last paid in 1998
58 members last paid in 1997
32 members last paid in 1996
46 members last paid in 1995
15 members last paid in 1994
6 complimentary or exchange.

MISHPUCHA - continued from page 5
drawings as a central part of the collage helped to add a dimension of depth to the work, ensuring that their artwork and perspective were an inherent part of the piece.

Belarie Zatzman, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Co-Chair, Department of Fine Arts, Atkinson College, York University, writes internationally on the subject of Jewish identity, Education and the Fine Arts. Suzanne Caines is a professional artist and graduate of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD). She has been exhibited at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, as well as at Halifax's renowned Anna Leonowens Gallery.
ACJS • AEJC
Réunion Annuelle 2000 Annual Conference
Call for Papers • Faire des Propositions

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies will be holding its annual conference at The University of Alberta in Edmonton on

May 28-29, 2000

as part of the Canadian Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities.

People wishing to present at this conference should communicate no later than
February 1, 2000,
with the Program Chair:
Randal F. Schnoor
603-66 Spadina Rd.
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2T4
Fax: 416-920-3145
email: rschno@po-box.mcgill.ca

Le comité du programme vous invite à lui faire des propositions pour la prochaine réunion annuelle tenue dans le cadre des Sociétés Savantes sur le campus de l’Université d’Alberta du


Envoyez vos propositions à
Randal F. Schnoor
603-66 Spadina Rd.
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2T4
télécopieur: 416-920-3145
poste électronique:
rschno@po-box.mcgill.ca

Les propositions doivent être soumises avant le 1er février, 2000.

ACJS • AEJC: Who We are

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies/ l’Association d’études juives canadiennes was founded in 1976 as the Canadian Jewish historical Society/Societe 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. The Association is a constituent organization of Canadian Jewish Congress.

This newsletter is written for organizations and individuals with a particular interest in Canadian Jewish studies. Membership in the Association (ACJS) is $25.00 a year for individuals and organizations not affiliated with ACJS; $15.00 for seniors, students or members of affiliated societies; and $50.00 for affiliated organizations. Outside of Canada, membership funds are payable in $US.

Memberships and Donations should be sent to: Association for Canadian Jewish Studies/ Association d’études juives canadiennes, Department of Religion/Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve West Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8.

This newsletter is edited by Randal Schnoor and Avi Hyman from material submitted by ACJS members. Comments, news, announcements, and reviews for the ACJS newsletter can be sent by fax to (514) 487-9726 or, through the Internet, to robinso@vax2.concordia.ca.
The ACJS home page is at http://fcis.oise.on.ca/~acjs

The Association welcomes new members. Please send the treasurer a letter specifying which membership category (see “ACJS information” above for details) and enclose a cheque for the appropriate amount.