



## ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES

### 2006 FINAL PROGRAM

**May 28-May 30, 2006**

- Sunday, May 28 to be held at Congregation Beth Sholom, 1445 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto.

ACJS Sessions on Monday May 29 and Tuesday May 30 to be held at York University, Vari Hall Room 1152A.

\*\*Session 9 of the ACJS, entitled "History and Memory: Canadian Jewry and the Holocaust," will be held in Curtis Lecture Hall J.

\*\*\* ACJS Closing Dinner and "The Futures of Yiddish Education and Culture in Canada" panel to be held Tuesday evening May 30th in Winters Dining Hall, in the lower level of Winters College.

- Presentations under the auspices of the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies (CSJS) will take place during the afternoons of Monday, May 29 and Tuesday, May 30 at York University, Curtis Lecture Hall J. These sessions will be held simultaneously with the ACJS sessions.

\*\*\*\*For a listing of CSJS Sessions, see pages 8-9.

### **SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2006**

All Sessions held at Congregation Beth Sholom.

#### **Session 1**

9:15 am-10:15 am

#### **Portraits of Jewish Scholars and Rabbis in Montreal**

Chair: Steven Lapidus (Concordia University)

- Ira Robinson (Concordia University)  
Portrait of the Scholar as a Young Man: The Montreal Years of Yehuda Kaufman (Even Shmuel)

- Sharon Gubbay Helfer (Concordia University)  
The Great Idea, 'Canada': Lavy Becker and the Evolution of Postwar Canadian Identity

### **Session 2**

10:30 am-11:30 am

#### **Israel and the Mediation of Diaspora Identity**

Chair: Jasmin Habib (Wilfred Laurier University)

- Emma Jo Aiken (University of Toronto)  
B'chol Dor V'dor: Campus Zionism and the Embattled Jew
- Dina Roginsky (University of Toronto) and Rina Cohen (York University)  
Two "Jerusalems" in Toronto, One is Kosher the Other is Not: Jewish-Palestinian Relations in Middle Eastern Restaurants

### **Session 3**

11:45 pm-12:45 pm

#### **The Commemoration of Canadian Jewish War Veterans**

Chair: Dana Herman (McGill University)

- Joe Levy (York University) and Naomi Gold (York University)  
The Jewish War Veterans of Canada Database and Research Project: A Micro Analysis and Case Study Profile
- Barbara Weiser (Concordia University)  
Memory Foundations: Honouring Canadian Jewish War Veterans

### **Session 4**

2:30 pm-3:15 pm

#### **Feature Session: Meet the Author**

In the winter of 2005, Knopf Books published a novel entitled *The Secret Mitzvah of Lucio Burke*, written by Steven Hayward. Set in Toronto in 1933 against the backdrop of the rise of Nazism and Fascism, the novel relates the story of Italian and Jewish immigrants trying to make their way in their new home. A tale of baseball, young love, friendship, and the nature of the miraculous, the novel has become a national bestseller, and has been translated into several languages.

Join us as Steven Hayward read excerpts from his book. The author will be available for book signing following the reading.

## **Session 5**

**3:30 pm-5:30 pm**

### **Canadian Jewish Literature in English**

**Chair: Steven Hayward (John Carrol University)**

- **Norm Ravin (Concordia University)**  
**The Poetry Wars: Irving Layton, Leonard Cohen and the Rest of the Montreal Poets**
- **Sandra Singer (University of Guelph)**  
**Spirited Dialogue in J.J. Steinfeld's Recent Fiction**
- **Aviva Atlani (University of Western Ontario)**  
**Time, Space and Place in *Fugitive Pieces***
- **Pierre Anctil (University of Ottawa)**  
**La ville de Montréal vue à travers les mémoires littéraires du poète yiddish Sholem Shtern**

**7:00 pm-9:30 pm**

**Lower Level Ballroom, Beth Sholom.**

### **EVENING CELEBRATION IN HONOUR OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACJS**

**7:00pm-7:20pm**

**Presentation of the 2005 Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award to Prof. Gerald Tulchinsky.**

**Award to be presented by Dana Herman (McGill University).**

**7:30-8:30pm**

**Keynote Speaker Morton Weinfeld (McGill University)**

**Between LOCAL and GLOBAL: The Shift from Canadian Antisemitism to Antisemitism in Canada."**

**8:30 pm-9:30 pm**

### **DESSERT RECEPTION**

**\*\*Sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Toronto.**

**MONDAY, MAY 29, 2006**

**All sessions held at York University. ACJS sessions 6-8 held in Vari Hall 1152A. CSJS sessions and ACJS session 9 held in Curtis Lecture Hall J.**

## **Session 6**

9:00 am-10:30 am

### **The Jewish Day School in Canada**

Chair: Leo Davids (York University)

- Randal F. Schnoor (York University) and Alex Pomson (Hebrew University)  
"School as Shul": New Perspectives on the Relationships of Parents to their Children's Schools
- Dan Mendelssohn Aviv (Bialik Hebrew Day School)  
Yehudi, Daber Ivrit? Implications of Hebrew Language Instruction on Jewish Learning in the Canadian Classroom
- Jack Lipinsky (United Synagogue Day School and School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto)  
*Telling our Story to the Next Generation: Creating a Canadian Jewish History Textbook*

10:45 am-12:45 pm

### **ACJS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Welcoming remarks from Prof. Sara Horowitz, director of York University Centre for Jewish Studies.

### **Sessions 7 and 8: Joint Sessions**

2:00 pm-5:45 pm

#### **THE CITY AS TARGET: Diaspora and Transnational Migration**

*Presented by the Canadian Society for Italian Studies, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies and Canadian Association of Hispanists, in partnership with the CIDA-CFHSS Collaborative Program and together with the Italian Cultural Institute of Toronto.*

## **Session 7**

2:00 pm-3:30 pm

### ***The Italian, Jewish, and Hispanic Immigrant Experience in Literature***

Chair: Margarita Feliciano (Glendon Campus, York University)

Panelists:

- Pierre Anctil (University of Ottawa)
- Luis Torres (University of Calgary)
- Steven Hayward (John Carroll University)

## **Session 8**

3:45 pm-5:45 pm

*Ethni(city): Negotiating Identities in the Contemporary Canadian City*

Chair: Randal F. Schnoor (York University)

Part (a): Museums and Memory: The Representation of the Immigrant Experience in Canada

Panelists:

- Mauro Peressini (Curator, Museum of Civilization)
- Stanislao Carbone (Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada)

Part (b): Language and Identity

Panelists:

- Leo Davids (York University)
- Jana Vizmuller-Zocco (York University)
- Michol Hoffman (York University)

*The following panel is also part of the dynamic CIDA-funded sessions. For those who are interested, this panel will be held from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm, in Vari Hall 1152A, and will include a presentation on the Jewish ghetto in Venice by Prof. Shaul Bassi.*

***Session of interest: Issues in Urban Immigration***

Chair: Gabriele Scardellato (York University)

Panelists:

- Shaul Bassi (University of Venice "Ca' Foscari")
- Julio Torres-Recinos (University of Saskatchewan)
- Luigi Bruti Liberati (University of Milan)
- Matteo Sanfilippo (University of the Tuscia region)

### **Session 9**

7:00 pm-8:00 pm

#### **History and Memory: Canadian Jewry and the Holocaust**

**\*\*This session will be held in Curtis Lecture Hall J.**

**Chair: Carmen McCarron (University of Western Ontario)**

- **Max Beer (Concordia University)**  
**What Else Could We Have Done?: The Montreal Jewish Community, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Jewish Press and the Holocaust**
- **Dana Herman (McGill University)**  
**The Fate of Heirless Jewish Cultural Property after World War Two**

**TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006**

### **Session 10**

9:00am-10:00am

#### **Autobiography and Identity in Canadian Jewish Literature**

**Chair: Norman Ravvin (Concordia University)**

- **Donna Goodman (Concordia University)**  
**Speaking Out: Autobiographies of Contemporary Jewish Women**
- **Carmen McCarron (University of Western Ontario)**  
**Shattered Silence: The Narration of Canadian Jewish Child Survivors of the Shoah**

### **Session 11**

10:15 am-11:20 am

#### **Sephardic Canadian Jewry**

**Chair: Aviva Atlanti (University of Western Ontario)**

- **Kelly Amanda Train (Ryerson University)**  
**CLAIMING JEWISH SPACE: The Sephardic Kehila Centre and the Toronto Jewish Community**
- **Judith Cohen (York University)**  
**Jewish Salonica remembered in Montreal: the repertoire of Bouena Sarfaty Garfinkle**

## **Session 12**

**11:30 am-12:30 pm**

### **Social Scientific Study of Canadian Jewry**

**Chair: Bernard Katz (University of Guelph)**

- **Nora Gold (University of Toronto, OISE)**  
"I Don't Know Why They Hate Us - I Don't Think We Did Anything Bad To Hurt Them": Ten-Year-Old Jewish Girls Reflect on Their Experiences of Antisemitism
- **Robin Bergart (University of Guelph)**  
"Mah ha-avodah ha-zot lachem? What is the meaning of the seder for contemporary non-traditional Jews?"

**2:00 pm-3:30 pm**

### **ACJS OPEN BOARD MEETING**

**3:45 pm-4:00 pm**

*Meet the author:* Sadie Stren will read selections from her poetry.

## **Session 13**

**4:10 pm-5:40 pm**

### **Canadian Jewish Identities: New Approaches**

**Chair: Robin Bergart (University of Guelph)**

- **Melina Baum Singer (University of Western Ontario)**  
Contemporary imaginings and contestations of Jewish Diaspora(s)
- **Nicole Libin (University of Calgary)**  
Canadian Jewish Identity: An Examination of Current Scholarship
- **Bernard Katz (University of Guelph)**  
New Jerusalem to West Jerusalem: Moosomin, Saskatoon to Palestine, 1882-1949

**York University Centre for Jewish Studies presents  
ACJS CLOSING CELEBRATION:  
THE FUTURES OF YIDDISH EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN CANADA**

Winters Dining Hall

6:30 pm-7:15 pm

Buffet dinner and a performance by Klezmer Band "Pomegranate"

**\*\*Buffet dinner and performance free of charge, sponsored by York University Centre for Jewish studies.**

7:15 pm

1) Greetings from Professor Sara Horowitz, Director of the York University Centre for Jewish Studies

2) Presentation of the 2006 Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award to Prof. Irving Abella.

Award to be presented by Frank Bialystok (York University).

7:30 pm-9:00 pm

**Roundtable Discussion: The Futures of Yiddish Education and Culture in Canada**

Join us as we gather a broad spectrum of supporters of Yiddish language and culture in Canada, including teachers of Yiddish (both within and outside of academia), members of local Yiddish committees, participants in informal Yiddish speaking groups as well as patrons of Yiddish cultural activity and scholarship, for a lively discussion of the future of Yiddish education and culture in Canada. Panelists will present their vision for creating dynamic and enduring partnerships amongst supporters of Yiddish in Canadian communities. Topics for discussion will include new approaches to recruiting students and teaching Yiddish, creating stronger partnerships between native Yiddish speakers, students, and Yiddish committees, and finally, the promotion of Yiddish culture.

Moderator: Pierre Anctil (University of Ottawa)

Panelists:

- Keith Weiser (York University)
- Eda Zimler-Schiff (Director, Friends of Yiddish)
- Ethel Cooper (Yiddish Instructor, former director of UJA Committee for Yiddish)
- Mark Kates (Yiddish Instructor, Bialik Hebrew Day School)
- Janie Respitz Ben-Shach (President, Jewish Public Library, Montreal)

**Presentations under the auspices of the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies (CSJS)**

**Monday, May 29th and Tuesday, May 30th**  
York University, Curtis Lecture Hall J.

**MONDAY, MAY 29, 2006**

**Session 1**

**12:30 pm-1:30pm**

**Modern Judaism**

- **Matthew LaGrone (Wilfrid Laurier University)**  
England in the Imagination of Solomon Schechter
- **Steven Lapidus (Concordia University)**  
The internet Controversy among Haredi Jewry

**Session 2**

**1:45 pm-2:45 pm**

**Gender in Contemporary Judaism**

- **Sara Horowitz (York University)**  
Keeping Secrets: Mothers, Daughters and Shoah Memories
- **Meira Josephy (The Israel Museum)**  
Miriam's Cup: a Feminist Addition to Traditional Jewish Ritual

**Session 3**

**3:00 pm-5:00 pm**

**Gendered and Transgendered Judaism**

- **Justin Jaron Lewis (Queens University)**  
"Transgendered Divinity in Rebbe Nahman of Bratzlav"
- **Benjamin Baader (University of Manitoba)**  
"Nineteenth-Century German Rabbis and Jewish Preachers for a Queer Jewish Masculinity?"
- **Robert A. Daum (University of British Columbia)**  
Male Privilege and Heteronormativity in Jewish Law: Gender, Rape, and the Ransoming of Captives

**TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006**

12:00 pm-1:30 pm

**BUSINESS MEETING FOR THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR JEWISH STUDIES**

**Session 4**

1:45 pm-3:15 pm

**Rashi**

- Ira Robinson (Concordia University)  
Why Rashi Still Speaks to Us After 900 Years
- Martin Lockshin (York University)  
Why Did Rashbam Lose?
- Eric Lawee (York University)  
Midrash and Its Discontents: Four Late Medieval Critics of Rashi's Scriptural Hermeneutic

**Session 5**

3:30 pm-5:00 pm

**The Embarrassment of Scriptures**

- Harry Fox (University of Toronto)  
Embarrassment and Reembracement of Scripture: An Introduction and Example
- Diane Krieger (Independent Scholar)  
A Few Embarrassing New Testament Verses
- Gyongyi Hegedus (University of Toronto/Szeged University)  
Medieval Rationalism in Biblical Commentary and the Embarrassment of (Irrational) Tradition
- James Diamond (Waterloo University)  
"Did the Rabbis Really Embrace King David?"

**Session 6**

5:15 pm-6:15 pm

**Scriptural Hermeneutics**

- Andrea Gondos (Concordia University)  
The Use and Role of Theurgic Activities in Parshat Lekh Lekha of the Zohar
- Daniel Maoz (University of Waterloo)  
The Term "Midrash" and Its Demarcation