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WALKING TOURS OF JEWISH MONTREAL

Learning about a city's historical background and how a community develops is a treasure that is found only in few localities. Fortunately Montreal is one such place where a person can join a walking tour and learn about the people, institutions and some of the more interesting occurrences of Montreal's Jewish Community. Should you choose to join in on one of these tours, you will hear names like A.M Klein, Irving Layton, Mordechai Richler, and Leonard Cohen. These are people who once lived in this neighbourhood and later went on to touch the minds and hearts of many around the world. But there is so much more to be learned and experienced. For sometime now, Stanley Asher (SA) has continued the tradition which was started by David Rome as a way of preserving the memory of Jewish Montreal. Today at 70, Stanley continues these insightful excursions and has even expanded these tours to include other related areas of interest. His knowledge and style genuinely adds to the history of the community while his deeper sense of reflection helps you touch that moment in time when this was the heart of the Jewish world in Montreal. For no matter how the buildings and the area have changed, there is much that remains the same.

The following is a brief interview with Stanley Asher, reflecting on his walking tours, their personal significance and related consequences.

HG: When did you begin these excursions and where exactly was the early Jewish section of Montreal?

SA: The idea behind these tours goes back about 15-20 years ago when I was following some other tours given by David Rome. It was about the same time that I became more interested in my Jewish roots and wanted to learn more – I've always been interested in my roots and things Jewish but I felt there was more to be learned. I guess the earliest part of Jewish Montreal (which goes back over 100 years), one would begin from the harbor area and go north to as far as Jews who came off the boats could walk. That means the lower part of the city's centre, before you walk up the hill to Sherbrooke street. This would be in the area that would now include UQAM (University of Quebec – Montreal), CEGEP Vieux Montreal, and the new Provincial Library around Ontario, Berri. This is the first area. A generation later, there was a northerly movement up the hill and this was the neighbourhood situated between Sherbrooke street north until Mount Royal – east to St.Denis and west to the mountain. And this was the area of Irving Layton, Shulamis Yellin and others. It was also the area where I lived as a child. A third neighborhood which was associated with someone like Mordechai Richler – would be from about Mount Royal more north toward the train tracks past Jean Talon – often called Park Ex (Extension).

HG: After so many years giving these walking tours, what has most impressed you about these areas?

SA: I guess it's the fact that all this time these neighbourhoods have been there, its uniqueness as a kind of buffer zone between the French east of St.Denis and the English west of Park avenue. In the past it was the Jews who thrived in this area, which today has changed hands several times since. So, I guess what fascinates is the transition and the mixture of groups living in this area.

Would you like to WIN a copy of "THE CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES READER" Edited by Norman Ravvin & Richard Menkis Thanks to Red Deer Press, we have one copy to give away. Send in (*by surface mail only*) the names of three of the contributors to this book. Mail your answer to Howard Gontovnick - 4351 Notre Dame #101, Chomedev. Laval, Qc H7W 1T3

ACJS / AEJC – 2004-2005

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies / l'Association d'études juives canadienne was founded in 1976 as the Canadian Historical Society / Societe d'histoire juive canadienne. Its goals are to encourage scholarly research in Canadian Jewish history, life and culture through academic disciplines.

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CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP

On May 30, 2004, a meeting was held in Winnipeg which resulted in the creation of the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies/Société Canadienne des Études juives. Its purpose is to provide a venue for the presentation of Jewish studies research and information primarily for faculty members, graduate students, and independent scholars living in Canada, though residence in Canada is not required for membership. Membership dues are \$20.00 for regular members, and \$10 for students, retired, and unemployed people. Cheques should be made payable to:

Canadian Society for Jewish Studies.

c/o Ira Robinson

Department of Religion

Concordia University - 1455 de Maisonneuve Boulevard, West, Montreal, QC H3G 1M8

Call for Participation - Announcement of Slate for Election at AGM, London, May 30, 2005 9-11 am.

Some of you may think the annual conference is a time to listen to, and to present scholarly papers and "schmooze" with like-minded colleagues. And it is!! But it is so much more: it is the time of year when the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies holds its annual meeting (all paid up members have voting privileges) and chooses its Officers, Executive Committee and Board members for the coming year. Get involved and be part of this exciting organization. All Officer positions (with the exception of Past-President) and the other Executive Committee positions are one year terms and so are open, as are some Board positions, which have three year terms. Three members are required to nominate someone (see below). In addition, to be nominated for an Officer position, a candidate must "have completed at least one year on the Board during the most recent three-year period" (Bylaw 7). Our Bylaws do not permit nominations to be made from the floor during the AGM, so now is the time to consider taking an active role in the operation of your association! The following are the Officers, Executive Committee and Board, as proposed to date by the Nominations Committee, who have the task of presenting candidates to the AGM for both contested and uncontested positions. Chair again this year is Hesh Troper, with the assistance of Bernard Katz.

OFFICERS - slate for 2005-6: President, Randal Schnoor; Past President, Norm Ravvin; Vice President, Franklyn Bialystok; Treasurer, Bernard Katz; Secretary, Susan J. Landau-Chark.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - slate for 2005-6 (the aforementioned Officers, plus): Irma Penn, Chair Ad Hoc Committee; Michael Brown, Journal Editor; Howard Gontovnick, Editor Bulletin; Ira Robinson, Book Review Editor; Dan Heller, Chair Programs; Jerry Silver, Honorary Officer; Dennis Stoutenburg, Chair, Membership Committee. Still open/pending are: Chair, Academic Committee; Chair, Finance; Chair, Nominations. (All positions are appointed, not elected, and members interested in serving should contact Hesh Troper - see below.)

NOMINATED BOARD MEMBERS - slate for 2005-2008: Pierre Anciau (Ottawa), Abe Arnold (Winnipeg), Dana Herman (Montreal), Eve Lerner (Ogden, QC), Edward Mickelson (Edmonton).

CONTINUING BOARD MEMBERS (completing their terms) - 2005-2006: Irving Abella (Toronto), Stanley Asher (St. Anne, QC), Julien Bauer (Montreal), Shirley Berman (Ottawa), Mervin Butovsky (Montreal), Anna Feldman (Saskatoon), Jay Joffee (Calgary), Seymour Mayne (Ottawa), Richard Menkis (Vancouver), Stuart Schoenfeld (Toronto), William Shaffir (Hamilton), Henry Srebnik (Charlottetown), Ronnie Tessler (Vancouver), Jesse Vorst (Winnipeg), Morton Weinfeld (Montreal); - 2005-2007: Gary Davis (St. John), Lillith Finkler (Halifax), Rebecca Margolis (Montreal), Janice Rosen (Montreal), Messod Salama (St. John's), Barb Schober (Vancouver), Alisa Seigal (Toronto), Roz Usiskin (Winnipeg).

Note: only members in good standing can nominate or be nominated (i.e. membership must be current, 2005). ALSO, in keeping with our Bylaws, each nomination must include the e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of all three nominators, as well as those of the nominee. Voting will take place at the Annual General Meeting, R. 22, Biological and Geological Sciences Building, University of Western Ontario, London 9 to 11 am, on Monday, May 30, 2005. Deadline for receipt is April 30, 2005. Please send nominations to:

Harold Troper, Theory and Policy Studies, OISE/University of Toronto, 252 Bloor St. W., Toronto, ON M5S 1V6. By e-mail: htroper@oise.utoronto.ca, by fax: (416) 926-4741.

BYLAW 22 - CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

- (a) Annually or from time to time, as may be appropriate, the Association shall present an award honouring an individual, group or institution, who has made significant contribution(s) to Canadian Jewish Studies in one or more fields.
- (b) At the Board meeting following each year's AGM, the President appoints a member of the Board to serve as chair of the Award Nominations Committee. The chair in consultation with the President selects two other Board members to serve on the Committee.
- (c) Once constituted, the Committee invites names for the Award to be suggested by the general membership through announcements posted on the Association's listserv and in the fall Newsletter. Names should be accompanied by a short cv outlining the individual's background and justifying the suggestion.
- (d) The Committee then discusses the names suggested, PRIVATELY, and submits one name as its nomination (together with documentation) via the chair, for approval by the Executive Committee. If this name is not accepted, it is returned to the Committee who submit another name, if they are agreed on doing so. This iteration should not go on beyond two or three names, as it indicates a lack of consensus on the Award. It is not necessary to issue the Award every year. The Committee should give special consideration to those suggested names of who are in the city where the next AGM will be taking place. This will help ensure strong local support for the presentation and a successful event.
- (e) Once a name has been accepted by the Executive Committee, the chair of the Awards Committee then has the responsibility to arrange for the event at which the Award will be presented, including the ordering of an appropriately worded commemorative plaque (or similar item) which is presented to the honouree by the President (or designate) at the annual conference (or another event, if that is not possible). The chair works with the Conference Program chair to ensure an effective presentation venue.

ACJS CONFERENCE 2005

University of Western Ontario - London, Ontario - May 29-31, 2005

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM – *(Please note that the program is still subject to small changes)*

MAY 29-31/05—LONDON, ONTARIO

Sunday, May 29 to be held at London Jewish Community Centre, 536 Huron Street.

Monday, May 30-Tuesday, May 31 to be held at the University of Western Ontario, Biological and Geological Sciences Building, Room 22.

One of the key themes of this year's conference is "Holocaust and Memory in the Canadian Jewish Community." The conference features a session engaging this theme, as well as a tour of the university's Holocaust Literature Research Institute.

Sunday May 29 - All Sessions in the London Jewish Community Centre.

Kosher lunches will be available for purchase from the London Jewish Community Centre between sessions 2 and 3.

Session 1

9:30am-10:30am

New Directions in Canadian Jewish Studies

Joseph Levy and Naomi Gold (York University)

The Art and Science of Building a Database for the Jewish War Veterans of Canada

Ronnie Tessler (Simon Fraser University)

The Notion of Village: Sholem Aleichem and the Jews of the West Kootenays

Session 2

10:45am-11:45am

New Perspectives on Montreal's Jewish Community

Eve Lerner (Montreal)

Soup, Bread and the Dole: Welfare in the Montreal Jewish Community in the Thirties.

Howard Gontovick (Concordia University)

Beyond Bagels and Cream Cheese: Looking for the Jewish Identity of Cote St. Luc, Quebec.

Session 3

1:30pm-3:30pm

Holocaust and Memory in the Canadian Jewish Community

Belarie Zatzman (York University)

Wrapped in Grief: The Performance of Mercy

Hyla Korn (University of Toronto)

Holocaust Commemoration as a Popular Religious Movement? The Case of Holocaust Education Week in Toronto

Alain Göldschlager (University of Western Ontario)

Typology of Holocaust Survivors Testimonies

Joseph Heller (University of Western Ontario)

Where Shall I Find Thee? Searching for the Canadian Jew in Holocaust Fiction

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