



*Cherishing Our Place in Time*

- Marion and Ed Vickar Jewish Museum of Western Canada
- Marvin & Irma Penn Archive
- The Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada
- The Freeman Family Foundation Holocaust Education Centre
- Genealogical Institute

C140-123 Doncaster Street  
 Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 2B2  
 Phone: 204-477-7460  
 Fax: 204-477-7465  
 E-mail: jewishheritage@jhcwc.org

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday—Thursday**  
**9 AM—4 PM**

**Mission Statement**

The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada is dedicated to advancing and promoting knowledge, understanding and preservation of the cultural and religious life of the Jewish people. The Centre also serves as an advocate for tolerance and anti-racism.

**Vision**

To have a strong presence in Winnipeg and Jewish communities throughout western Canada as a dynamic organization, attracting a broad and diverse audience through its programs.

Come find us at [www.jhcwc.org](http://www.jhcwc.org)

**JHCWC Staff and Board of Directors**

**Ilana Abrams, General Manager**

Tel: (204) 477-7460  
 jewishheritage@jhcwc.org

**Stan Carbone, Director of Programs & Exhibits**

Tel: (204) 477-7467  
 scarbone@jhcwc.org

**Ava Block-Super, Archivist**

Tel: (204) 477-7461  
 ablocksuper@jhcwc.org

**Renee Kaplan, Asper Foundation Human Rights & Holocaust Studies Program Coordinator**

Tel: (204) 477-7458  
 rkaplan@jhcwc.org

**Executive Committee**

- Daniel Stone—President, Chair, Programs and Exhibits Committee
- Sergio Glogowski—Vice-President
- Maurice Steele—Treasurer
- Belle Millo—Chair, Holocaust Education Centre Committee
- Abe Anhang—Immediate Past President

**Members at large**

- Rena Boroditsky
- Shelley Chochinov
- Jack Craven
- Annalee Greenberg
- Vivian Gutstadt
- Mark Kantor—Chair, Archives & Acquisitions Committee
- Harriet Lyons
- Sheldon Mindell—Co-chair, Kanee Lecture Series
- Mona Rich
- Lynn Roseman
- Sharon Goszer Tritt
- Lorne Weiss
- Sharon Wolchock



**Life and Times at the JHC**

Summer 2011

In an effort to reduce costs and go green, please give us your email address if we don't have it already so we can keep in touch electronically.

**Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada**

**President's Message by Daniel Stone**

Because of our recent restructuring, we have not kept in touch with our members the way we should. This is the first newsletter of 2011 and I expect more. Please excuse the modest – and less expensive – format. This issue will primarily report highlights from the recent Annual General Meeting.

Let me start by reporting the sad passing of two founding members of the Jewish Historical Society, the predecessor of the Jewish Heritage Centre. **Abe Arnold** was the first Executive Director of the JHS and served later as Vice-President and long-time Board member. His historical research and writing earned him the Margaret McWilliams Award from the Manitoba Historical Society. Abe distinguished himself further through his activities in numerous other fields and was awarded the Order of Canada. **Jack Chapman** Q.C. was a long-term Board member and regular participant in JHS and JHC activities.

A particularly unfortunate part of our financial crisis was the need to restructure the office and, as a result, reduce staff. Our General Manager is Ilana Abrams who started during the summer of 2010 and now works four days per week. Ilana has shown herself to handle office routine efficiently, to build good relations with the public and other Jewish agencies, and to take an active role in handling the issues that confront the JHC. She coordinates some Holocaust education activities.

Stan Carbone remains Director of Programs and Exhibits, and continues to perform at his usual high level. This is the tenth anniversary of Stan's work with the Jewish Heritage Centre and it is no exaggeration to say that he is the heart and soul of our operations in programming, exhibits, and archival collection.

The Holocaust education programs are thriving. We have offered a large variety of lectures and discussions on western Canadian Jewish history a regular basis, and the Corridor Exhibits have been changed several times. Research is going on that will lead to future exhibits and lectures.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The year 2010 was a challenging year financially. Our priority was to reduce our outstanding deficit. Our current task is to build up our finances to eliminate our deficit completely and to comfortably handle the salaries of our current staff and provide for an archivist, without which we are in danger of losing our archival accreditation. Our annual Kanee Lecture Series, which is our only major fundraiser, will help to accomplish this goal.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL**

We are delighted to add former JHC presidents Gerry Posner and Rona Davies to our Advisory Council. Their past service was exemplary and they continue to work for the JHC and attend JHC events.

**SHEM TOV NOMINATION**

We are delighted to nominate Lillian Zentner for the community Shem Tov Award. Lillian has devoted many years to Holocaust education, including a term as chair of the Holocaust Education Committee, and deserves much of the credit for our fine programs.

**Inside this issue:**

- Programs & Exhibits **2**
- Archive **3**
- Asper Foundation program **4**
- Holocaust Education Centre **4,5**
- Thank you **6**
- Kanee Lecture Series **6**
- Upcoming Programs & Exhibits **6,7**

### Manitoba Day Program - JHC and Grade Seven Students, Gray Academy

On May 30, the JHC held a successful Manitoba Day program with Grade Seven students at the Gray Academy. The program arose from Chana Thau's oral history project on Jews in rural Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and the fact that these students had just completed their "Roots" project on their grandparents and family histories. The program was also attended by Maureen Eskow, Community Heritage Consultant with MB Culture, Heritage and Tourism, a funder of the JHC. Two people interviewed for

the Oral History project shared their experiences with the students. Adele Standil, who grew up in Altona, Manitoba and Ed Lazar, a "farm boy" from Birds Hill, MB, related to the students what it was like growing up in a rural setting in general, and as a Jew in particular. Then, they answered questions from the interested students, on subjects ranging from any anti-Semitism they encountered while growing up, to the kinds of extracurricular activities they engaged in, to what it was like before indoor plumbing and running

water. Both interviewees and the students expressed the opinion that it was an interesting and worthwhile program.

We hope to do many more such programs with the Gray Academy and perhaps other schools, as our seniors can bring history alive for young people.

Written by Chana Thau

### Rabbi Peretz Weizman Permanent Display by Stan Carbone

Located adjacent to the entrance of the Freeman Family Foundation Holocaust Education Centre, the Rabbi Peretz Weizman window pays tribute to an individual who for over 50 years played a seminal role in the religious and cultural life of Winnipeg Jewry. The only one in his family to survive the Holocaust, the Polish-born Weizman donated to the Jewish Heritage Centre a wealth of photographs, letters and manuscripts detailing various aspects of his life including his pre-Holocaust family life in Lodz and his long standing term as Rabbi with the B'nay Abraham Synagogue.

The idea of a permanent display arose in conjunction with a dinner held to honour the Rabbi's life and contributions held in August 2009 at Congregation Etz Chayim. Coordinated by a committee headed by Messrs. Laurie Mainster, Joe Reisen and Sid Ritter, the proceeds from the event were placed in an endowment with the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba and are to be used for the ongoing refurbishment of the display.

### Jewish War Veterans Celebrated by Daniel Stone

Manitoba's Jewish War Veterans were celebrated in a Corridor Display exhibit featuring photographs and artifacts of their service, particularly during World War II and in the Israeli War of Independence. The Veterans themselves told about their experiences in a program that drew a large audience in the Kanee Foyer of the Berney Theatre. The exhibit was held over at the request of Jewish Child and Family Services so that curator Stan Carbone could tell two different groups about the Veterans' experiences. In one of the programs he was assisted by Chana Thau and war veteran Harry Rosenbaum.

The General Monash Legion cooperated in organizing the exhibit and contributed some of the artifacts that were displayed. Researcher Chana Thau conducted more than thirty oral histories that provided additional background for the exhibit. They have been deposited in the Jewish Heritage Centre Archive for future use by students and researchers.



3 Generations of Weizman Family  
Lodz Ghetto, 1942  
All, except for Rabbi Weizman (standing second from right), were murdered

### Garment Trade to be Explored by Daniel Stone

Along with fur, wheat, and the railways, the Garment Trade played an important role in the development of Winnipeg and Winnipeg's Jewish community. Almost from the start of Winnipeg's history, local factories and workshops produced much of the clothing worn by farmers and workers on their street clothing. The factories were concentrated in the Exchange District and employed thousands of Jewish and other workers. Many of the owners and managers were Jewish, as well. Common ethnicity

helped smooth over problems at times but sometimes differences between the groups led to bitter strikes. The Garment Industry has diminished greatly in Winnipeg and the rest of Canada in recent decades but some Winnipeg manufacturers remain active under very different conditions.

The Garment Trade is being studied with the help of grants from the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba and the Winnipeg Foundation and we hope to move soon to the exhibit

stage. Oral Histories are being collected by researcher Sharon Chisvin.

Families with a history in the Garment Trade are invited to contact curator Stan Carbone with information and artifacts. We want to study all aspects of the Garment Trade including workers and owners, as well as distribution systems outside Winnipeg.



Machine Operators at S. Stall and Sons Ltd.  
Peck Building  
Princess Street and Notre Dame  
Winnipeg, 1939

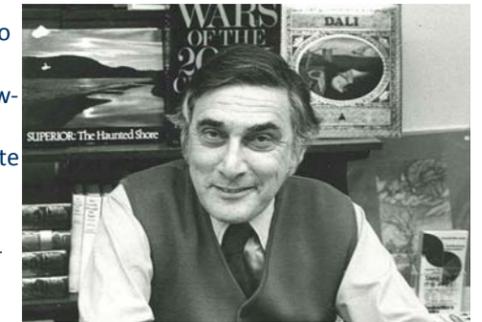
### Abe Arnold to be Remembered by Daniel Stone

Abraham A. Arnold's contributions to the Jewish community and Manitoba as a whole will be remembered in a program on September 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Berney Theatre co-organized by the Jewish Heritage Centre, the Arnold family, Oral History Centre, University of Winnipeg, United Jewish People's Order, Shalom Aleichem, Outlook Magazine, and the Joe Zuken Memorial Fund. Abe's contribution to the JHC (formerly the Jewish Historical Society) was of vital importance as founding Executive Director of the Jewish Historical Society and a long-term Vice-President.

Abe won the prestigious Margaret McWilliams Award from the Manitoba

Historical Society, first for a contribution to general Canadian history and the second time, in 1974, for a series of articles on Jewish settlement in the Canadian West, particularly in the farm colonies. He also wrote a book celebrating the secular tradition in Judaism and edited a book of pictures by artist William Kurelek of Jewish life in Canada.

He received the Order of Canada in 2003 for his contributions to Jewish life and his important contributions in other areas such as founding the Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties and serving as Executive Director.



Abe Arnold, taken at the time of the release of his book Jewish Life in Canada which included paintings and commentaries by William Kurelek  
Winnipeg, 1976

### Upcoming Fall Programs

- **Thursday, September 22, 7:00pm**—Abe Arnold Tribute. Berney Theatre, Asper Jewish Community Campus (123 Doncaster Street).
- **Tuesday, October 4, 7:00pm**—"The Lost Expressionist: Nick Yudell's Journey in Photographs." Lecture by Celia Rabinovitch, Professor at the School of Art, University of Manitoba. Berney Theatre, Asper Jewish Community Campus.
- **Thursday, October 27, 7:00pm**—"Jews in Rural Manitoba." Presented by Chana Thau and a panel of Jews from rural Manitoba. MultiPurpose Room, Asper Jewish Community Campus.
- **Tuesday, November 29**—Panel presentation on "Sephardic Jews in Manitoba." MultiPurpose Room, Asper Jewish Community Campus.

## Thank you to our funders

While it is a privilege to be the keepers of our community's history, we would not be able to do so and provide the accompanying programs, exhibits, services and outreach that we do without the support of our funders. We gratefully acknowledge their past support and hope that we can count on continued support for many years to come.

Thank you to the following:

- Asper Foundation
- Culture, Heritage, Tourism, and Sport, Government of Manitoba
- Freeman Family Legacy Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto
- Jewish Federation of Winnipeg
- Jewish Foundation of Manitoba
- Province of Manitoba, Heritage Grants Program
- Winnipeg Foundation

## Kanee Lecture Series by Sheldon Mindell

Once a year the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada directly asks the community for financial support. This "ask" is in the form of the Sol & Florence Kanee Distinguished Lecture Series.

The purpose of the series is twofold; the fundraising aspect assists the JHC in providing programs and services for the community. The second purpose is to provide the community with a thought provoking educational experience. Over the course of the past six years JHC has been success-

ful on both counts. Speakers such as, Sir Martin Gilbert, Deborah Lipstadt, Dore Gold, and this year's David Frum have all challenged our thinking and provoked discussions within the community.

Plans for the 2012 Kanee Distinguished Lecture Series are well underway and JHC is grateful for the community's past support and hopes that the community will be equally generous when we announce this year's presenter.

## New Exhibit to Explore History of Holocaust Orphans in Winnipeg

The Jewish Heritage Centre has developed an exhibit exploring the history of Holocaust orphans through the activities of A.N.A.V. (Help Youth Forever).

The origins of A.N.A.V. can be traced back to the arrival of the first Holocaust orphans in Winnipeg in 1947. These orphans, who would meet regularly at the Y.M.H.A, organized with the assistance of the Y's Lou Rusoff, a club known as HAGIBOR (Hero). Its first president was Eugene Joseph. Some of the activities carried out by HAGIBOR included plays, discussion groups and athletic endeavours such as the creation of a soccer team coached by Y.M.H.A. staffers Jack Perlmutter and Leible Hershfield. In 1972, a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion of orphans

took place at the Rosh Pina Synagogue which also included representatives of the three levels of government and the Canadian Jewish Congress. The creation of A.N.A.V., a service organization dedicated to assisting needy children locally and in Israel, arose from that reunion. For over twenty years A.N.A.V. provided financial assistance to programs such as a summer camp for needy children organized by Jewish Child and Family Service, various and local Israeli health care centres and social services agencies as well as individuals who were in need.

Written by Stan Carbone

## Ava's Archival Anecdotes by Ava Block-Super

The archives are a very exciting place these days, aside from the regular duties, queries, research, scanning, filing etc. We have had a collection of materials bestowed upon us by the niece of Adele Wiseman. Adele was a renowned writer whose novel *The Sacrifice* won the Governor General's award in 1956. Eighteen years later in 1974 she published her second novel *Crackpot*. The next book that would be published would be *Old Women At Play*, an in depth examination of her mother and her mother's hobby, doll making.

It is an extensive collection of probably a thousand letters in Yiddish from Adele to her parents and other family members. The letters are personal in nature, and speak of not only ordinary mundane matters, like having her mother hem her grey skirt, but also of her visits with her close friend Margaret Laurence, Margaret's husband Jack and daughter Jocelyn. Translating these letters will be no easy task; there are literally hundreds of them and they are in no chronological order. A lot of time will have to be devoted to this project. We have enlisted the translation services of Jeanette Block, founder of the Yiddish Women's Circle, Esther Levin and Edith Kimmelman, for their initial opinions whether the letters have literary merit or not. The consensus is that they do, Where we go from here is still unknown, but one thing I know for sure, these letters will not stay in a box indefinitely. With any luck and hard work we will do something that will benefit not only the JHC, but the perhaps the arts and Jewish community as well. Aside from the letters, there are lots of photographs, manuscripts and books in this collection as well.

Stan, Ilana and I are also in the midst of procuring a microfilm reader, and cleaning our off-site storage warehouse on Notre Dame.

## Letter of Appreciation from Sondra Singer

Dear Stan,

I wanted to extend my thanks and appreciation to the staff and volunteers at the Jewish Heritage Center of Western Canada, specifically you, Ava Block-Super and Lynn Roseman.

I have been researching my family history for over twenty years and recently picked up the pace to try to fill in some missing puzzle pieces regarding my ancestors that settled in Winnipeg. I had very little to go on other than a cemetery record discovered by a cousin of mine on the internet at the Jewish Genealogy site and a few family stories related to me by my aunts who are now deceased. Your database contained relevant information for my search and your staff not only located records, but helped me locate my cousin and his family who still reside in Winnipeg, an unexpected, happy bonus. This would not have been possible without the help I received from your organization. My entire experience has been a positive and rewarding one. Having the opportunity to meet and work with all of you has opened my eyes to the possibilities of what can be accomplished when you have a dedicated, caring and determined group of individuals. Bravo!

I have had over twenty years of experience researching vital records here in the United States and it has taken me months and years to uncover information that was provided to me in a week's worth of time, thanks to your wonderful resources, your caring community and competent staff and volunteers. I'm sure that the Jewish Community takes great pride in your organization, as well they should. You are doing wonderful work in not only preserving your community's Jewish history, but by honoring the memory of those pioneers that founded and fostered the community that you are enjoying today.



From left: Esther Leven, Jeanette Block, and Edith Kimelman  
Hard at work poring over the letters from Adele Wiseman

Ever wonder how we can provide information about births, deaths, and marriages? The answer is our dedicated volunteer Harvey Tabachnik who comes week in week out to enter information about social occasions from the Jewish Post and News. Thank you Harvey—your dedication over the last 10 years is amazing and much appreciated!

"Your database contained relevant information for my search and your staff not only located records, but helped me locate my cousin and his family who still reside in Winnipeg, an unexpected, happy bonus."

## Survivors and Heroes by Belle Millo



From left, Belle Millo, HEC chair, Dr. James Christie, Emcee for the evening, and Shelley Faintuch, Community Relations Director of Jewish Federation of Winnipeg  
-Photo courtesy of Jewish Post and News



Erika (Katy) Simons  
-Photo courtesy of Jewish Post and News

"Before going on the trip, when a racist comment had been made to someone, I would just let it slide and say it was not my business. Well, it is my business. If someone is making racial remarks to someone, I have to stand up for them. After seeing the things I did during the program, I can't let racism go by without consequences"  
-2010/2011 Asper Foundation program participant

In collaboration with the Holocaust Awareness Committee of Federation, the HEC held an extremely successful program was held on May 5, 2011. "Survivors and Heroes" was well attended with many representatives from the non-Jewish community as well as the Jewish community. Eleven plaques were dedicated in honour of Gentiles who came to the aid of Jews during the Shoah.. Eight were dedicated by local survivors.: Stefan Carter, Barbara Goszer (three plaques), Betty Kirshner and Carmela Finkel, Joe and Ruth Riesen, Walter Salzberg, Fanya and Israel Pilat,

Jewish Federation of Winnipeg dedicated a plaque in memory of Blessed Fr. Emilan Kowcz, a Ukrainian priest who saved thousands of Jews by baptizing them so that he could provide them with baptismal certificates that would save their lives. At one point, the need was so great he is said to have performed a mass baptism of 1000 Jews. He also hid Jews in his home. For his efforts, Fr. Kowcz was arrested and eventually died in Majdanek. His grandson is a parish priest outside of Winnipeg and spoke at the event.

Anje Van Tongeren, risked her life to help Jews flee her native Holland by forging documents for them. Her home was raided twice, and her own father turned her in. She was sent to a Nazi prison camp. B'nai Brith Canada dedicated a plaque in her honour and Pastor Rudy Fidel, co-chair of the B'nai Brith Jewish Christian Roundtable spoke about Anje, as well as her late mother, Hillechiena, who perished at Ravensbrück.

Erika (Katy) Simons is the only Canadian to have been honoured by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. She and other members of her family risked their lives over and over again, hiding Jews in their home in Amsterdam, and providing food and supplies to Jews hiding elsewhere. Katy was eventually caught by the Nazis and imprisoned. The plaque in memory of Katy was dedicated by the Unitarian Universalist Church and by Daniel and Kay Stone. Professor Stone also presented Katy's story.

The Reverend Dr. James Christie, former Dean of Theology of the University of Winnipeg and director of the Ridd Institute of Religion and Global Policy of the Global College was the master of ceremonies for the evening.

A selection of speeches from the evening can be found at <http://www.ffhec.org/Speeches.cfm>

## 12th Annual Asper Foundation Human Rights & Holocaust Studies Program

The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program was founded in 1997 in Winnipeg. Conceived as a program to promote tolerance and sensitize Canadian high school students to the consequences of racism, it became a national initiative in 2000 inclusive of students from diverse backgrounds. The Canadian Museum for Human Rights, scheduled to open in 2013, was inspired and motivated by the extraordinary impact of The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program.

The program objectives are to promote respect for others and sensitize students to the consequences of racism through a specially designed education program. The program consists of 9 education sessions on human rights and the Holocaust. After the educational component is completed, students participate in a trip to Washington, D.C., where they spend time at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other important monuments relating to freedom. The students are also required to volunteer in their communities on public projects of their choosing. The last component of the program is an evening graduation ceremony held to present a Memorandum for Personal Responsibility to each student.

## 10th Annual Holocaust Symposium Sets Record Attendance

A record number 2100 students as well as teachers and guests attended the symposium this year, filling the Duckworth Centre of the University of Winnipeg to near capacity. The morning began with greetings from Belle Millo, chair of the HEC, as well as remarks about the current state of global anti-Semitism and the roots of its 2000 year-old history. Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, U of W president and vice-chancellor, followed bringing greetings from the U of W and reminding the students of the importance of becoming engaged and involved and the danger of indifference.

Our speaker, Elly Gotz, engaged the students at a level rarely observed. Born in Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania, in 1928, Elly Gotz was 13 years old when on June 24, 1941, Nazi troops invaded Lithuania, capturing the small Baltic state and changing 13-year-old Elly's life forever. In July 1941, the Nazis decreed the infamous Kovno Ghetto, where the Gotz family was to live for nearly three years. Elly and his father were eventually evacuated from Kovno and sent to Dachau from where he was liberated on April 29, 1945. Following the war, Elly and his father were reunited with his mother and lived in Germany, Norway, Rhodesia, and South Africa before immigrating to Canada in 1964 with his wife and three children. He has gone on to become a director of a successful company and later managed other companies. After Gotz's address, students lined up at the microphones to ask thought provoking questions for a further 45 minutes.

In the afternoon, breakout sessions took place in classrooms at the U of W with survivor volunteers as well as facilitators from the HEC Symposium committee and other volunteers. Mr. Gotz graciously spoke again in the afternoon to a group of 180 students, as one of our survivors had to cancel at the last minute due to illness. Mr. Gotz also spoke to approximately 400 students at SJR the day before the Symposium. We are grateful for sponsorship for some of the fees incurred to the Reverend Dr. James Christie and the Ridd Institute of Religion and Global Policy, to Gail Asper and Michael Paterson and of course to the Grosberg Family Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba. Gustavo Rymberg graciously designed this year's logo which appeared on our program and also appears on our educators guide on our website, at [http://www.ffhec.org/PDF/Symposium Guide Shoah.pdf](http://www.ffhec.org/PDF/Symposium%20Guide%20Shoah.pdf)

## HEC launches new website by Belle Millo

The HEC has a brand new website with a great new look. You can find us at <http://www.ffhec.org>. For a long time now, we have hoped to spread our message to a much wider audience regarding our museum, our programming and upcoming events. At the same time, as the world has moved into the electronic age, we can be greener while saving our limited funds, by posting our Symposium Guide online. Not only will this site make our guide available to the educators who register for our symposium in a user-friendly format, it will now be available to everyone who consults our website. In addition to the guide, the website provides a history of the museum and some accompanying photos of the artifacts presently on display. Presentations can now be booked online, which will be a boon for educators who find it difficult to call during office hours. Next September/October, we will also have our Symposium registration forms available online. Information about our outreach programs is also posted, as well as contact details.

The "Awareness" section at <http://www.ffhec.org/awareness.cfm> contains articles selected from the electronic media all over the world regarding Holocaust-related issues as well as those pertaining to anti-Semitism. This section is updated regularly and worth checking frequently. Links to recaps of our recent events - our Survivors and Heroes evening and our very successful Holocaust Symposium, can be found at <http://www.ffhec.org/events.cfm>, including press coverage, photos and a selection of speeches. Tribute cards are available for purchase online: our Jewish Heritage Centre cards, as well as a link to the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba tribute cards. There are several endowment funds established at the JFM under the umbrella of the Holocaust Education Centre Endowment Fund. The proceeds from this endowment fund help us to carry on with the work we do, such as our presentations, our symposium and special events. It is also possible to order "Voices of Winnipeg Holocaust Survivors" online from our website (as well as from the JHC's website at [www.jhcwc.org](http://www.jhcwc.org)).

We hope that you will enjoy our new look and come back to visit the new site often.



Elly Gotz, Keynote Speaker at Holocaust Symposium  
-Photo courtesy Jewish Post and News



Belle Millo, HEC chair  
-Photo courtesy Jewish Post and News