



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



**JEWISH  
HERITAGE  
CENTRE**

OF WESTERN CANADA INC.

*Cherishing Our Place in Time*

Partner Agency of the  
**Jewish Federation**  
OF WINNIPEG



## Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada

[jewishheritage@jhcwc.org](mailto:jewishheritage@jhcwc.org)

(204) 477-7460

[www.jhcwc.org](http://www.jhcwc.org)

C-140 123 Doncaster Street

## THE JEWISH HERITAGE CENTRE

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### MISSION

### VISION

### MANDATE

### THE JHC COLLECTION

### WHO WE ARE

- To develop, interpret and disseminate information on the history and culture of Western Canadian Jewry and to develop awareness of the history, moral and ethical implications of the Holocaust and other human rights violations.
- To document, preserve and share information on the culture and historical formation of Jewish communities in Western Canada. The Centre also serves as an advocate for anti-racism and education on the Holocaust and antisemitism.
- To forge a pathway for the future by preserving and sharing compelling stories and educating the present and future generation
- To collect and preserve the records, artefacts and traditions of our community.
- To present programs and exhibits about the history, experiences, achievements, and culture of the Jewish community.
- To maintain and expand a searchable and detailed database of Jewish gravestones in Manitoba and farther afield.
- To promote the awareness and understanding of the history of the Holocaust through education—reaching thousands of students and educators each year. We address the fact that society continues to witness genocide due to continuing racism and hatred and that we must all be vigilant in opposing racism, antisemitism, and other forms of bigotry.
- Our treasured archive brings our community's history to life through its collection of images, artefacts, documents, and multimedia, including:
  - More than 70,000 photographs
  - More than 200 bound volumes of newspapers from 1914 to the present
  - Oral histories—audio, video, and text
  - More than 1300 sound and moving image recordings
  - More than 1000 boxes of textual records, maps, architectural drawings, electronic files, and other documents - from 1870s to today
  - More than 4000 artefacts including religious paraphernalia, medical and pharmaceutical items, military jackets, medals, and awards, clothing; dolls, trophies, sports memorabilia
  - Original documents and artefacts from the Holocaust era

The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada (JHC) brings together the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada, the Marion & Ed Vickar Jewish Museum of Western Canada, the Jewish Historical Society Archives, and the Freeman Family Foundation Holocaust Education Centre.

**PRESERVING OUR COMMUNITY'S STORY  
ENSURING OUR FUTURE**

**OUR ARCHIVE COLLECTION**

**200+** bound volumes of newspapers

**1300+** sound and moving images

**1000+** boxes of textual records,  
maps, architectural drawings, electronic  
files

Programs  
Commemorations  
Exhibits

**2000+**

students and educators  
benefited from our programs  
on the Holocaust and  
antisemitism

**ORAL  
HISTORIES**

*AUDIO*

*VIDEO*

*TEXT*

**70,000+**  
photos

**4000+**  
artefacts



## Message from our President & Executive Director



Mark Kantor  
President

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Kantor".



Belle Jarniewski  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Belle Jarniewski".

As it is the case for so many organizations, this last year has presented the Jewish Heritage Centre with many challenges, but also an opportunity for transformation in the way we deliver our programming and help to preserve the history of our community. The 2019—2020 year saw the launch of a brand new JHC website, thanks to the generous support of the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba. The new site has allowed for access to our important collection of digitized newspapers, dating back to the late 1800s, our vast section on cemetery burials in Manitoba and beyond, media, and much more. We also created a Jewish Heritage Centre YouTube channel, and recordings of many of our programs can be found there for those who were not able to attend or who would like to watch them again. Our weekly newsletter (*The JHC Connects*) highlights our work and our treasured collection; it has attracted a large list of subscribers.

The Jewish Heritage Centre has embraced the virtual platforms to ensure that we could continue to reach our traditional audiences. We were delighted to discover that online programming translated to a much broader audience, across Canada and far across the globe. In turn, our programming has led to greater interest in our website and database. Not a day has gone by without someone reaching out to us for information about their family. Research inquiries have come from as far away as Italy and Israel.

In addition to the public, the archive is a sought-after reference source for academics, researchers, authors, and filmmakers. Author, Arthur Ross, wrote, "The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada's archive is invaluable. Its rich collection of photographs, documents, and publications enables visitors to explore and learn about the rich history of Winnipeg's Jewish community and the

many contributions Jews have made to Winnipeg's social, economic and cultural life. Over the past few years, I spent many days in the archives completing the research for my book, *Communal Solidarity: Immigration, Settlement and Social Welfare in Winnipeg's Jewish Community, 1882-1930*. I know that the archives contain a wealth of material that could illuminate many more aspects of the history of Winnipeg's Jewish community: the history of Jewish educational institutions, the formation of Jewish garment workers unions and their role in Winnipeg's labour movement, the origins and development of the Jewish Welfare Fund and Jewish Child & Family Service, the arrival and settlement of Holocaust survivors after the Second World War, the history of Winnipeg's synagogues, the contribution of Winnipeg's Jews to the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Zionist Organization of Canada, to name a few."

Continuing in our role as the principal purveyor of education on the Holocaust and antisemitism, we reached thousands of Manitoba students and educators (see more below under "Education and Commemoration"). For the second year in a row, a student from Westwood Collegiate was the recipient of the Mina Rosner Human Rights award. Rosemund Ragetli's essay is posted on our website.

The Jewish Heritage Centre is thankful for our talented and dedicated staff who interface with members of the public and researchers from all over the world. We are also thankful to our Board of Directors, volunteers and generous donors. As we look ahead, we continue to count on the interest and generosity of the community so that future generations may also learn from their past.



Students from Westwood Collegiate visit the Holocaust Education Centre for a presentation from survivor Isaac Gotfried.

## Education & Commemoration

The Jewish Heritage Centre is recognized as the principal purveyor of education on the Holocaust and on antisemitism through its Holocaust Education Centre (HEC). Each year, we provide programming, education to thousands of Manitobans. The JHC partnered with Manitoba Education and Training to provide professional development programs to educators from across the province. A summer institute was planned for 2020, which has been postponed until next year.

Our annual Holocaust and Human Rights Symposium drew well over a thousand students to the University of Winnipeg to hear Edith Kimelman, a local Holocaust survivor and retired educator and administrator. In the afternoon, Theodore Fontaine, an Indian Residential Schools survivor told his story to the students. Before COVID hit, many students from grades 6—12 visited the HEC, for presentations on the Holocaust and antisemitism, benefitting from the participation of local Holocaust survivors. These presentations were given in both English and French. Our audiences for both educational programs and professional development are increasingly diverse and often spend several hours on the road in order to join us from their home locations.

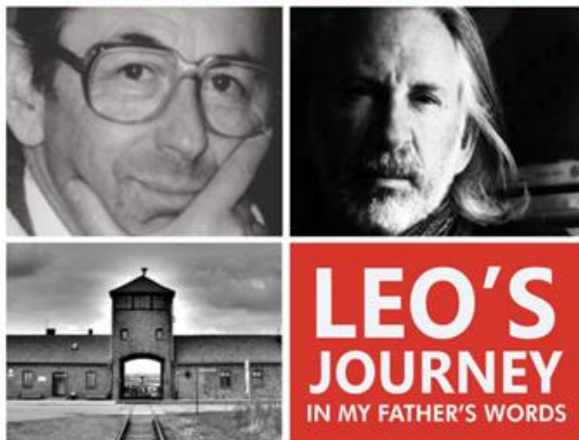
The JHC also partnered with a number of Jewish organizations on commemorative events. In November, we collaborated with Jewish Federation to reprise a 2019 event of the JHCWC: “The Music of Remembrance.” In January, we joined with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights to present “Leo’s Journey” to an audience of more than 500 people. Sadly, due to COVID-19, we were not able to mark Yom Hashoah with our usual programming. Virtual programs are planned for 2021.

In the early fall, the JHC brought in the Federal Republic of Germany’s Stolpersteine (Stumbling Stones) exhibit for display in the Holocaust Education Centre. The exhibit culminated in a program for Kristallnacht, featuring Dr. Ralph Stern speaking on the disruption of spatial narratives.

Because students cannot visit us for presentations in the Holocaust Education Centre due to COVID, the JHC has developed a package of three interactive e-learning modules based on the latest international best practices. The presentations take place online, and students can ask questions, just as they would in the HEC. The packages have been made available to all Manitoba teachers from grades 6 through university.



Join us for a special presentation by Richard K. Lowy  
INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020



## BEHIND THE CLOSED DOORS OF MENGELE'S ROOMS IN AUSCHWITZ BIRKENAU

With a presentation by Leo's son Richard and a screening of the film  
"Leo's Journey," narrated by Christopher Plummer.  
The Winnipeg Youth Chorus will perform selected movements from "I BELIEVE" An  
Oratorio for Humanity, composed by Zane Zalis

JANUARY 26 2020 AT 1:30 PM

Canadian Museum for Human Rights  
Manitoba Teachers' Society Classrooms

Admission is free. Limited Seating.

Please call Jewish Child & Family Service at 204-477-7430 to arrange for transportation for Holocaust Survivors.



THE JEWISH HERITAGE CENTRE OF WESTERN CANADA PRESENTS

## JEWS, MENNONITES, & THE HOLOCAUST

A panel discussion featuring Mennonite historians:

- Dr. Hans Werner Senior Scholar (Ret.) University of Winnipeg
- Dr. Aileen Friesen Executive Director of the Plett Foundation

7 pm Tuesday November 5

Multipurpose Room / 2nd Floor Asper Jewish Community Campus  
123 Doncaster Street

Admission \$10 Cash only please

For information : [scarbone@jhcwc.org](mailto:scarbone@jhcwc.org) 204.477.7460



**ONE STONE · ONE NAME · ONE PERSON**  
COMMUNITY-WIDE VIRTUAL KRISTALLNACHT  
COMMEMORATION  
**Monday, November 9 at 7 pm**  
A person is only forgotten when his or her name is forgotten

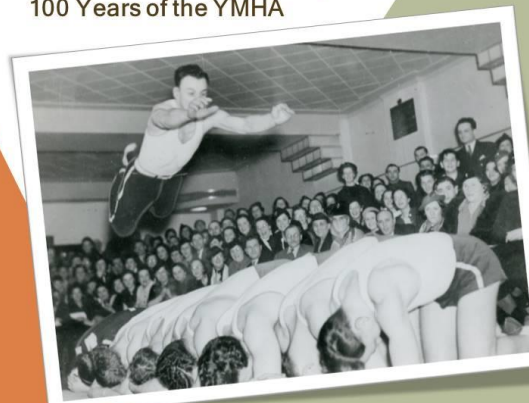
Keynote speaker Dr. Ralph Stern (University of Manitoba):  
"Stolpersteine: Disrupting Narratives of Spatial Appropriation"

With the participation of IHRA Chair Ambassador Michaela Küchler  
& Thomas E. Schultze, Consul General of Germany Toronto

Registration at [jhcwc.org/programs/kristallnacht](http://jhcwc.org/programs/kristallnacht)

THE JEWISH HERITAGE CENTRE OF WESTERN CANADA  
PRESENTS

## Hoops, Hebrews and Hot Dogs: 100 Years of the YMHA



**JEWISH  
HERITAGE  
CENTRE**  
OF WESTERN CANADA INC.

Exhibit Opening:  
7 pm Thursday December 5 2019  
Berney Theatre Asper JCC  
123 Doncaster Street  
Info: [scarbone@jhcwc.org](mailto:scarbone@jhcwc.org) 204-477-7467





**RACIAL LAWS & ANTISEMITISM IN FASCIST ITALY**

1:30-4 pm CDT: AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS  
with Dr. Bruce Strang and Dr. Jeremy Maron

4:30 pm CDT: FILM  
Screening of *Figli del Destino* (Children of Destiny)  
With the participation of the film's director, Marco Spagnoli

**FIGLI DEL DESTINO**

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 25 2020** Free registration at [jhcwc.org/programs/](http://jhcwc.org/programs/)

Logos: JEWISH HERITAGE CENTRE OF WESTERN CANADA INC., CENTRO CABOTO CENTRE, ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI CULTURA, Azrieli Foundation, Jewish Foundation of Manitoba

A CENTURY OF MANITOBA JEWISH PHYSICIANS

**HEALING LIVES**

**EVA WISEMAN**

# NINETEENTH ANNUAL HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM

**FROM GENOCIDE TO HOPE:  
IN SEARCH OF NEVER AGAIN**

**THURSDAY MARCH 12, 2020 | 9:30 AM TO 2:30 PM**  
DUCKWORTH CENTRE—UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**Edith Kimelman**  
Shoah survivor

**Chief Theodore Fontaine**  
Indian Residential School Survivor

Author of *Broken Circle: The Dark Legacy of Indian Residential Schools*

Logos: FREEMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE OF THE JEWISH HERITAGE CENTRE OF WESTERN CANADA INC., THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG, THE ASPER FOUNDATION, Azrieli Foundation, JEWISH FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA, Supported by The Grosberg Family Fund

**BROKEN CIRCLE**  
The Dark Legacy of Indian Residential Schools  
A Memoir  
THEODORE FONTAINE

For more info email: [jewishheritage@jhcwc.org](mailto:jewishheritage@jhcwc.org) or call 204-478-8590

Logos: JEWISH HERITAGE CENTRE OF WESTERN CANADA INC., JEWISH FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA, Association of the Jewish Federation of Manitoba

Please join us online Thursday, October 15 at 7 pm for the biennial Switzer-Cooperstock lecture with Sharon Graham: "Pearl Finkelstein, Unknown Hero: the Winnipeg Jewish Orphanage and Social Work in the Winnipeg Jewish Community in the 1930s."

**To register – go to [jhcwc.org/programs/](http://jhcwc.org/programs/) and click on the registration link**

The Switzer-Cooperstock Prize at the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba was established by the Switzer family to honour their parents and grandparents.



## Events and Programs

Among the JHC's outstanding program offerings were "The Mennonites and the Holocaust," which attracted a large audience of both Mennonites and Jews. In late 2020, we presented the biennial Switzer-Cooperstock Prize in Western Canadian Jewish history to Dr. Sharon Graham, for her essay on Pearl Finkelstein and the Winnipeg Jewish Orphanage. The 2019-2020 fiscal year also saw the publishing and launch of *Healing Lives: A Century of Manitoba Physicians*, by author Eva Wiseman. Both publications relied primarily on documents from the JHC archives.

One of eight Manitoba Heritage organizations, we helped plan and participated in the first ever Manitoba Heritage Summit to discuss the state of heritage in Manitoba as well as the opportunities and challenges of the heritage sector in our province.

Our archivist continued to accession and digitize treasured items and collections for our ever-growing and precious our archive. We were fortunate to have Sydney Newman, a graduate of the Gray Academy, and former Jewish Heritage Centre intern, as our summer student archival assistant. Sydney was able to catalogue a large number of items and also created an exhibit based on her favourite picks from the archive, focusing on items from the Adele Wiseman collection.

## Genealogy Institute

### Chair, Lynn Roseman

This year we have continued to update our database and keep it current. Despite COVID, our numbers have increased at the same rate as in the previous two years: about one new entry every second day.

We continued photographing gravestones over the spring, and pictures of all stones in place as of July 2020 in the Winnipeg cemeteries have now been uploaded to our website. Our hopes to visit Brandon, Dauphin, Saskatoon, and Regina were abandoned due to the pandemic.

Over the winter, we received several requests for research. Among these were a list of Jewish burials in Selkirk, two requests for reading the text engraved on some very old markers, and information on the Katz, Niznick, Axelrod, and Shechter families, all answered to the best of our ability. In addition, we continue to work on researching family trees for major donors to our archival endowment fund.

On February 20th, 2021, Lynn Roseman, Chair of the Genealogical Institute, participated in a webinar hosted by the Manitoba Genealogical Society as part of the Safe At Home program. She was able to demonstrate how to search for information on the JHC online archive and what the site has to offer to the historical and genealogical communities.

## Archives

### Chair, Annalee Greenberg

In 2020, the Archives Committee continued various initiatives outlined in its Modernization Program of 2016. With funding from private donors, the Jewish Foundation, and government granting bodies, we were able to make progress on the following initiatives:

- Additional recordings from our oral history collection uploaded.
- Ongoing conservation of deteriorating photos (particularly from the David Portigal Collection); also inventory and housing of oversized photos.
- Film digitization of three co-produced films of JHC, as well as four others related to Western Canadian Jewish subjects.

We completed the uploading of digitized newspapers. *The Israelite Press* 1911--1981; *Jewish Post* 1925-1977; *Western Jewish News* 1926--1981 are now on the website and are fully searchable by keyword. We also fulfilled a request from the Israel National Library to share this collection, so these properties are now also accessible through them. Accompanying publicity for this initiative (CBC, *Winnipeg Free Press*, *Jewish Post*) generated substantial on-line research activity.

In addition, a site visit report from the Association of Manitoba Museums Cultural Stewardship Program made a number of recommendations pertaining to storage, care of collections, environmental conditions and exhibit space. The following were acquired and set up:

- Special archival-quality shelving for basement storage area
- HEPA vacuum
- Diatomaceous earth to keep insects out of the vaults

We were able to add an additional day's work for our archivist, now at 4 days a week. With various upgrades and improvements completed, we have been able to regain accreditation with the Association of Manitoba Archives (AMA).

Archival materials were used, along with objects from our collections, for online exhibits that were mounted this year. These were included in the Jews of Dauphin, Origins of Winnipeg Jewish Community, and Edith Kimelman exhibits.

## Acquisitions

Through the process of upgrading the basement storage area, our archivist uncovered records which had been hidden--more than 80 boxes of Western Canadian Holocaust survivors' files pertaining to restitution applications, from the United Restitution Organization.

We also received:

- Archives of the United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) Winnipeg
- Documents from the estate of engineer Easton Lexier (GBR Architects and Engineers)
- Documents from B'nai Brith Women
- Documents from March of the Living event.
- collections of WWII correspondence from Peter Leipsic
- *Mameloshen* executive records
- Yearbooks from Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate and Ramah Hebrew School

These collections are being catalogued.

## Endowment fund

Our endowment fund was conceived of in 2018 for the primary purpose of ensuring a salary for a qualified archivist to maintain and process the collections of the JHCWC, now and into the future. We will be engaging with professional fundraisers to continue to build this fund.

## Other

Due to COVID-19, the office has been closed to researchers. However, with migration of newspapers online, many researchers have been able to access remotely; others have been assisted by Andrew and our summer student.

A planned workshop (Saving Family Treasures) has been waylaid as well.



## Donations and Tribute Cards

We gratefully welcome direct donations to help support the work of the Jewish Heritage Centre. Your contribution will allow us to continue our work to collect and share our community's history, to provide quality programming and exhibits throughout the year, and to promote education on the Holocaust, antisemitism, human rights, social justice and genocide awareness.

All donations are tax-receipted. There are a number of ways in which to donate in order to help us:

### **Direct Donations to the Jewish Heritage Centre**

Donations can be made by calling 204-478-8590 or ask us to contact you by writing to [jewishheritage@jhcwc.org](mailto:jewishheritage@jhcwc.org). Donations of securities are also welcome. Sponsorship opportunities are available and welcomed for our major events.

### **Donate online via [Canada Helps](#)**

Whether you want to give once, give monthly, or donate a security or mutual fund for great financial benefits, with Canada Helps you can donate online to the Jewish Heritage Centre.

**Grow** our Endowment funds at the [Jewish Foundation of Manitoba](#) by making a donation or creating a new name-based fund.

There are several funds established at the [Jewish Foundation of Manitoba](#) under the umbrella of the **Holocaust Education Centre Endowment Fund**. Donations may also be made to our **Jewish Heritage Centre Endowment Fund** and the new **Jewish Heritage Centre Florence and Norman Vickar Archival Endowment Fund**.

[Tribute Cards](#) are an excellent way to honour or memorialize a friend or relative, to commemorate a special occasion, or to acknowledge a life-cycle event. All donations are tax receipted.

### **Jewish Heritage Centre Tribute Cards:**

To send a Jewish Heritage Centre card, please call 204-478-8590 or write to [jewishheritage@jhcwc.org](mailto:jewishheritage@jhcwc.org). We offer same-day service.

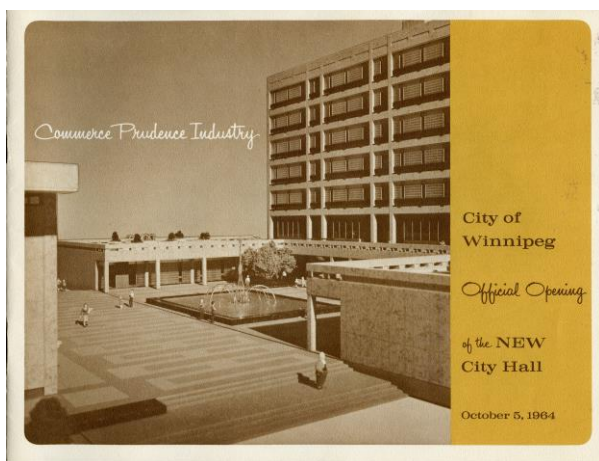
### **Jewish Foundation of Manitoba Tribute Cards:**

By sending a tribute card or donation to the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, you can designate your donation to our three major funds: The Holocaust Education Centre Endowment Fund, the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada Endowment Fund, or the Jewish Heritage Centre Archival Endowment Fund. Please contact the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba at 204-477-7525 or order your card [online](#).

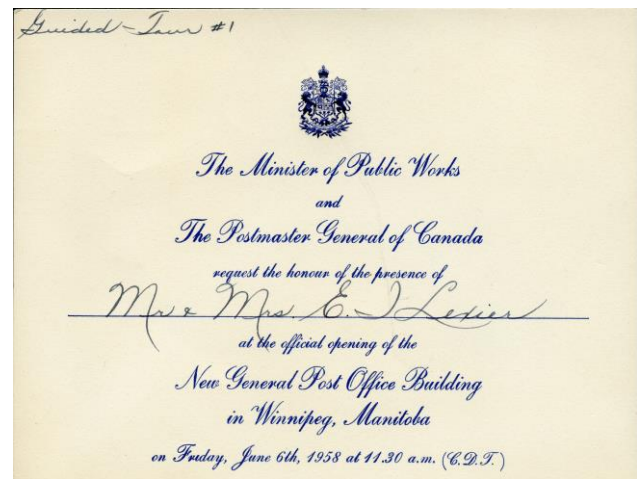
## Recent Acquisitions: New Treasures in our Collection



1

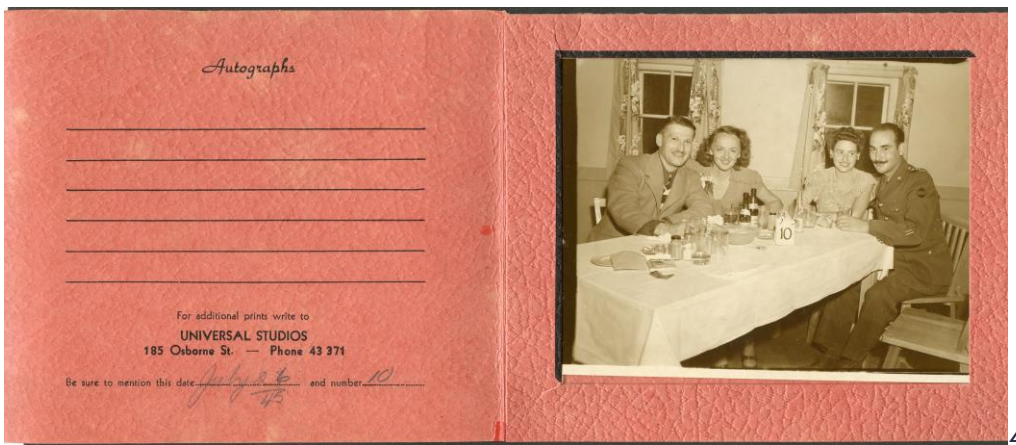


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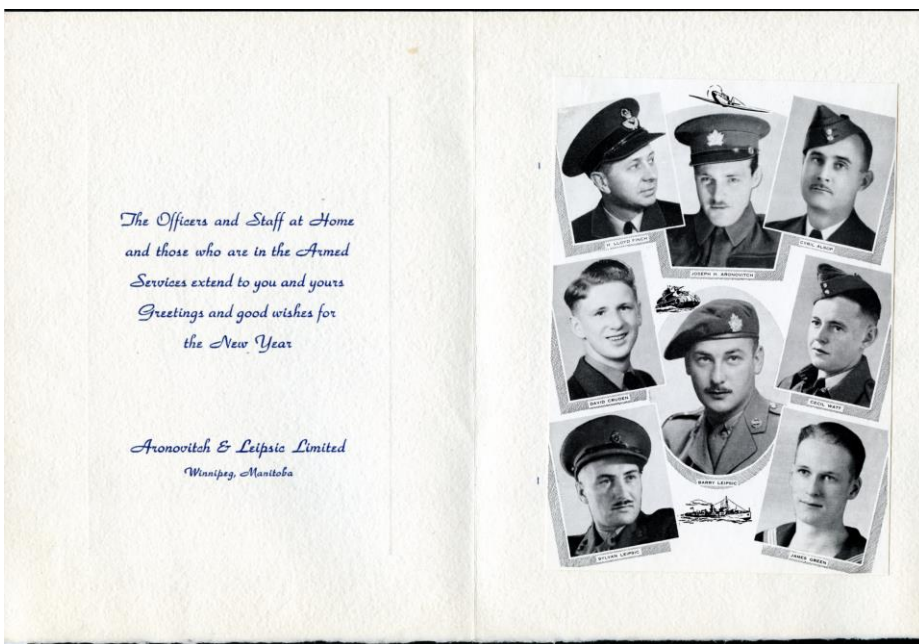


3

1. Alpha Omega Fraternity Pi Chapter 1927-28    2. City of Winnipeg Official Opening of the New City Hall programme, 1964, Easton Lexier fonds, JHC 765 F 11    3. Invitation to Grand Opening of New General Post Office Building, 1958, Easton Lexier fonds, JHC 765 F 10



4



5



6

4. Souvenir photograph from The Village Supper Club, 1945, Peter Leipsic fonds, JHC 756 F 1

5. Greeting card from Aronovitch & Leipsic Limited, ca. 1945, Peter Leipsic fonds, JHC 756 F 1

6. Holocaust era tefillin (phylacteries)



## Board of Directors 2020-2021

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Chair, Archives & Acquisitions Committee: Annalee Greenberg

Chair, Holocaust Education Committee: Belle Jarniewski

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### Director of Programs and Exhibits

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### Archivist

Andrew Morrison BA MIST

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Ben Baader  
Sharon Graham  
Amy Karlinsky  
Andrew Morrison  
Joel Novek

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### Genealogy Institute

Lynn Roseman

### Sol and Florence Kanee Distinguished Lecture

Mark Kantor  
Maury Donen  
Anita Neville  
Mel Myers  
Belle Jarniewski  
Neil Margolis  
Marvin Samphir  
Sharon Segal  
Maurice Steele  
Daniel Stone

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Our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions

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DROITS DE LA PERSONNE

**cira.**



BUILDING A BETTER  
ONLINE CANADA

Beneficiary Agency of the  
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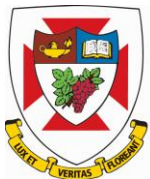


Sport, Culture and Heritage



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