



Preserving our Heritage



“Those who carry with them the heritage of the past
are those who can face the future without fear”

— Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z"l

For over a half-century the voices of the Jewish people have been carefully gathered to create a rich tapestry that preserves our heritage. **The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada (JHCWC)** is at the forefront of preserving and presenting the religious and cultural heritage of the Jewish Community of Western Canada.



Becky Sokolov and Fanny Churchill,
Balfour Day Parade
Main Street, Winnipeg, May 19, 1920

Jewish religious and cultural traditions reflect the profound importance of community. The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada is home to 100,000 items - artifacts, photographs, newspaper articles, research and academic papers, and multi-media resources - each contributing to the voice of the Jewish community.

For contemporary Canadians, this rich resource is a vital link to the past and to each other.



Top - The Pearl family at Passover, 1929.

Right - Rubinfeld Case in the Holocaust Education Centre.

Bottom - War medals from WWII.



The creation of the Jewish Community Campus in 1997 provided the opportunity to create a Holocaust Education Centre and Jewish Museum that merged with the Jewish Historical Society to create the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada. Today, the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada performs all the functions of the Museum, Holocaust Education Centre, and Historical Society and is wholly dedicated to preserving the heritage of the Jewish people of Western Canada.

As an open-access historical society, the JHCWC offers a comprehensive exhibition and education program. From school-age children, to the general public, to professional academics, the exploration of the 262-year history of Jews in Canada begins at the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada.



Cover, left to right - Leible Hershfield, gym display, YMHA, 91 Albert Street, 1937. Orphaned Holocaust survivors in Winnipeg, late 1940s with Thelma Edwards, Director of the United Hebrew Social Service Bureau. From left: David Erlich, Anton Deutch, Ernie Green, Leo Greenspan, Eugene Joseph and John Hirsch. Victory Ball at the Royal Alexandra Hotel, Winnipeg, 1918

Yours for the Asking

OUR MISSION - To forge a pathway for the future by preserving and sharing compelling stories and educating the present and future generations.

Exhibitions

The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada's galleries and exhibition cases feature curated exhibits interpreting a broad cross-section of topics. The JHCWC presents exhibitions of scholarly and visual merit, in the belief that contact with original artifacts and stories is an essential component of knowing where we come from and a key factor in understanding the world in which we live.

For the Jewish community, our exhibits have the ability to move visitors in a deeply personal way. As they explore the religious and cultural history of Jews, both past and present, many experience deep reflection on issues such as identity, faith and community. Ours is a living museum.

By featuring both static and virtual exhibitions, the JHCWC is able to reach thousands of people each year and confirm the vitality of Jewish culture, support people's own sense of responsibility for keeping their culture alive, and having it continue to shape and enrich Manitoba's vibrant multicultural mosaic.



Top - Aaron Pascal with Jewish Legion for Palestine. Cairo, 1918.

Bottom - War relief poster.



Top - Bertha and Jacob Plotkin at a Purim party 1908.
Bottom - Mandolin Orchestra, May 1931, Winnipeg.



Collection, Library, and Research

The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada maintains an extensive research library on topics related to Canadian Jewish history, the Holocaust, and other culturally significant topics from home and abroad.

For more than 25 years, the JHCWC has endeavoured to photograph and index every Jewish gravesite in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and beyond and to make them publicly available.

Of particular interest to historians and genealogists, the JHCWC features an extensive database that includes an index and classification of all the articles from the Jewish newspapers of Winnipeg, archives from the *Israelite Press* and the *Jewish Post* from the early 1900s to the present, as well as the *Western Jewish News*.

Unique in Canada, the database includes over 14,000 news stories and over 29,000 articles. In addition to social announcements about births, bar mitzvahs, engagements etc., the database includes reports on local, national, and world events.

Engaged and Informed

The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada is active in the community through special programming at the Asper Jewish Community Campus, in schools and synagogues and online.

Recognizing the broad scope of interests and issues of importance to the Jewish community, the JHCWC creates original programming and invites outside experts to share insights and experiences of critical importance.

The Centre presents an array of programming from presentations on culture to world events, the lives and times of early Jewish settlement in Canada, and the Holocaust.

The Centre is recognized as a leader in Holocaust education. Programming is delivered both online and in person, and employs age-appropriate teaching techniques and best practices.

The JHCWC also administers two significant awards: the Switzer-Cooperstock Award for a publishable essay on Jewish history in Western Canada is geared to graduate students and scholars; high school students are invited to submit essays on the Holocaust and/or human rights to the Mina Rosner Human Rights competition.



National Council of
Jewish Women crest.



Raising your Voice



Purim 1908 King Edward Hall.



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Beneficiary Agency of the
Jewish Federation
OF WINNIPEG



Florence and Norman Vickar z"l

Who will speak for us?

WE WILL. Our identities, as individuals or as part of this community, have been forged over millennia of trials and triumphs. The faces of our people reflect the experiences of those who have gone before, our hands hold their hopes and dreams, and our hearts beat in rhythm to a timeless people.

Who will safeguard their legacy?

WE WILL. The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada remains steadfast in its commitment to preserve, interpret, and share the collected history of the Jewish people in Western Canada and beyond.

In response to the growing demand for an enhanced archive, increased capacity and programming, and a sustainable future, the JHCWC has launched the Jewish Heritage Centre **Florence & Norman Vickar Archival Endowment Fund**, with the goal of raising \$1 million.

This fund will support the continued collection and preservation of our rich Jewish heritage. For academics, historians, lecturers, and genealogists, the Florence & Norman Vickar Archival Endowment Fund represents an enduring commitment to the Jewish community of Western Canada and beyond.

**The voice of yesterday's past becomes
the voice of tomorrow's future.**

Lend your voice today so all may hear.