



AJL-CANADA NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026

STEERING COMMITTEE

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Marjorie Gann, Programs

Caroline Ingvaldsen, Secretary/Treasurer

Joanne Levy, Membership

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear AJL-Canada members,

As summer 2026 approaches, I want to remind everyone about the benefits of AJL-Canada membership:

- Informative, provocative programs that are Canadian oriented;
- A timely e-newsletter about library and literary events in Canada;
- A rich website with resources for members only: [AJL Canada |](#)
- Mentorship and advice from colleagues in the field;
- Bursary to attend the AJL National conference.

Our chapter connects librarians, teachers, archivists, authors, academics, book lovers all—from sea to sea. Our members work in Jewish day schools, universities, public libraries, archives, Holocaust centres, museums, and community centres. We all share a passion for Jewish books and learning.

In August, you'll receive your renewal reminder. Please renew your membership to help us continue the vital work we're doing.

Have an enjoyable, healthy summer!

Anne

ON THE HUNT FOR BIBLIOGRAPHIES

If you have a bibliography that you would like to share with our members (only) on the AJL-Canada website, please send it to me as a Word document. Thanks in advance!



MEMBERSHIP



Your steering committee is delighted to welcome **Joanne Levy** to our group. Joanne will be in charge of membership beginning June 2026.

Joanne is the author of over a dozen books for tweens, including the Sydney Taylor Notable, Governor's General Finalist, and Canadian Jewish Literary Award-winning, *Sorry For Your Loss*. Her other books include *Let It Glow* and the upcoming *Here We Glow Again* (cowritten with Marissa Meyer) and *How to Walk a Dog*, among others. Many of her books have been chosen as PJ Our Way selections. Joanne can usually be found at her computer in her century-old home in rural southwestern Ontario, either creating spreadsheets (sometimes just for fun) or channeling her younger self into books.

We welcome new members, **Cheryl Rosenbaum and Bev Katz Rosenbaum**. Both are authors who have recently published new work.

If you know anyone who might be interested in joining AJL-Canada, please contact Joanne: ajl.canada.membership@gmail.com. It's never too late (or too early) to join!

We're excited to announce that AJL Canada is now on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/ajl_canada/ We plan to share our programming and news of interest to and by our members so please give us a follow.

AJL-CANADA WEBSITE

If you haven't checked out our AJL-Canada website, I hope you'll do so soon! You might want to dig into the "Members Only" section for more content: Bibliographies, Current Newsletter, Past Programs, and Members Directory.

Here's the link: <https://ajlcanada.org>

NOTE: You'll have to log in and create a password to access the Members Only section. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me directly: adublin54@gmail.com.

PAST PROGRAM

CANADIAN JEWISH AUTHORS SHOWCASE



AJL-Canada presented a Canadian Authors' Showcase on May 4, 2026. Ten authors who have published books in the last two years (or who have upcoming books) were featured. Attendees got a taste of: board books for toddlers; books featuring Holocaust memory as embedded in the streets of Europe; the writings of children of survivors; books on American and Canadian Jewish history and on Israeli life.

Some publishers, like Orca, Second Story, Scholastic Canada, and Nimbus, are Canadian; others, including KarBen and Apples & Honey, are American.

The session ended with a lively Q & A that focused on Jewish publishing today and on the various issues Jewish authors highlight in their work, especially those for young readers.

All presenters were AJL-Canada members. The presentation was open to the public. It was recorded and put on the AJL National and AJL-Canada websites. Here's the link: [AJL Canada Canadian Authors' Showcase 640x360](#)

AJL-Canada was delighted to give our participants a chance to showcase their creations, especially to the Americans in the audience.

FUTURE PROGRAM

(TBD)

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

Carson Phillips

Let's travel back in time to approximately twenty years ago, when I was a graduate student at York University, studying the intersection of gender and the Holocaust. Probably because diaries, letters, and other life-writing documents were at the heart of my dissertation research — my dissertation boasts the rather lengthy title of *Post-Holocaust Conceptualizations of Masculinity in Germanophone and Jewish Men* — I was assigned, through the Centre for Jewish Studies, a research assistantship with the newly launched Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program through the Azrieli Foundation. It was in fact a fortuitous moment of what I like to call academic serendipity.



At the Holocaust Museum, Carson worked with school students to analyze archival photographs and documents.

In the years following the completion of my PhD, I was immersed in Holocaust education through my work at what is now the Toronto Holocaust Museum. I also began to teach online courses in the graduate programs at Gratz College and at Yeshiva University where I use Holocaust literature and Azrieli Foundation memoirs with my students. My courses range from *A Geographical Approach to the Holocaust* to *Nazi Medicine and the Holocaust* to *Gender and Genocide*. Incorporating memoirs and first-person narratives into the syllabus has allowed my students to discover for themselves the lived experiences that characterize the memoir genre. My students come from diverse backgrounds around the world, and thoughtfully written memoirs and diaries help deepen both the historical and personal understanding of how the Holocaust impacted individuals, families, and entire communities. For me, memoirs are not simply primary source documents; they are living bridges to the past.

Fast forward to 2023, when I joined the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program as Manager of Academic Initiatives. I work with professors at postsecondary institutions across Canada and introduce our memoirs to help integrate them into their courses. I could not have guessed, twenty years ago, that my work would come so neatly full circle, but I'm very glad it did. And — more academic serendipity — my work at the Azrieli Foundation overlaps like a Venn diagram

with my teaching. Another overlapping area is my involvement as a Canadian delegate to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). This year I chair the Academic Working Group, which continues the synergies of my work with the Azrieli Foundation, teaching, and participation in IHRA.

Throughout my career I've been a supporter of Austrian Service Abroad, a recognized alternative to mandatory military service in Austria. By partnering with Holocaust museums and educational centres internationally, they provide opportunities for young Austrians to go overseas and engage in Holocaust memorial work. In recognition of my ongoing engagement with the organization, I received the Austrian Holocaust Memorial Award in 2023.

When not engaged with the study of the Holocaust, I can usually be found exploring the beach with my dachshund, Monty, or unwinding with the melodic strains of Hindustani music or Indian classical performance, especially those that originated in the Bene Israel and Baghdadi Jewish communities of India.



YASHER KOACH TO OUR MEMBERS!

BETH SHALOM M. YEDLIN MEMORIAL 2026 LIBRARY BOOK SALE (Edmonton)

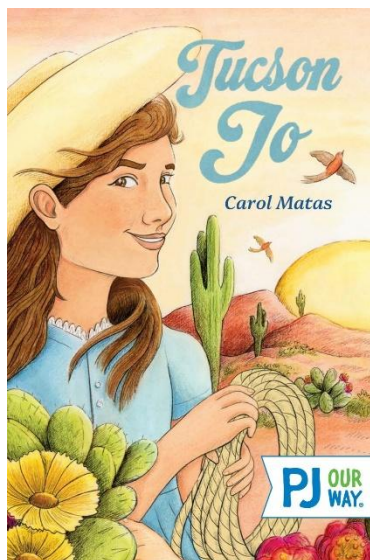
Submitted by Library Committee

This has become an annual event to which the entire community looks forward. Held this year on April 26th, it was combined with a first-time sale of beautiful Judaica—donated and bequeathed. It was a fun afternoon. As we continue to reorganize our holdings and carefully cull duplicates and books that do not fit our stricter collection policy, we have hundreds of not-needed books to deal with. We make every effort to find new homes for as many as we can.



Congratulations to **Nathan Diena** on winning this year's AJL Student Scholarship Award! The merit-based prize is awarded to a graduate library student who has demonstrated deep commitment to, and interest in, Jewish Studies and Judaica librarianship. Recipients have passion and promise as future Judaica librarians, and, as part of the award, are enabled to learn and network at the conference.

Joanne Levy's book for young people, *Let It Glow*, is on two U.S. state lists for next year: the Young Hoosier Book Award and the Iowa Children's Choice Award. Yahoo!



Carol Matas is delighted to announce that P J Library will be publishing her novel *Tucson Jo* in June and sending it out to thousands of households. This book was very special to Carol because when all the traditional publishers said no, but her dear friend, Morri Mostow at Fictive Press, published it. *Tucson Jo* then went on to be nominated for the National Jewish Book! This is a book about freedom and democracy and perfect for librarians who want to discuss civics with their students. It also tackles women's rights and antisemitism—all in the framework of a western thriller.

In addition, this spring Carol's novel *Zevi Takes the Spotlight* (Orca books) was published by PJ Library. The responses from readers were wonderful! For example: "This book was really fun and mysterious. You should definitely choose this book."

Finally, Carol has done some readings of *A Storm Unleashed* in schools and she's had an amazing response. These are virtual readings, so Carol would encourage librarians to contact her about readings: carolmatas@shaw.ca

Anna Rosner, the founder and director of Books with Wings: A First Nations Literacy Project, has received with her team of three volunteers the Governor General's Meritorious Service Medal for sending 25,000 brand-new books to Indigenous children living on isolated reserves. For more information, please visit www.books-with-wings.org.

Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre's new travelling exhibition, *Age of Influence: Youth & Nazi Propaganda*, is officially on the move. What began as an in-house exhibition built from VHEC artefacts is now reaching audiences far beyond its walls.

The interactive exhibition explores how the Nazi regime used media, education and youth organizations to influence young people. Within weeks of seizing power in 1933, Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party created the Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda to indoctrinate the German public in Nazi ideology, encourage conformity and spread

antisemitism in support of a so-called “racially pure” national community. The ministry disseminated propaganda through every available forum, including the press, films, literature, radio, art, exhibitions and rallies.

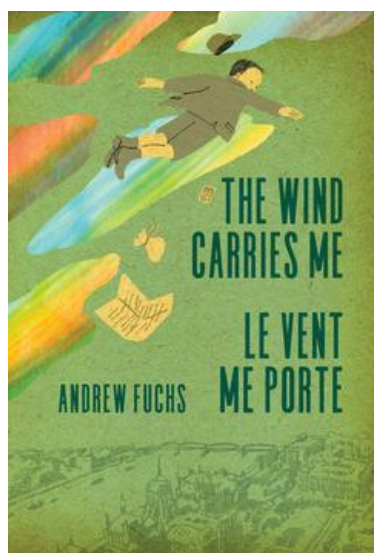
Created with digital enhancements in partnership with NGX Interactive, the travelling exhibition draws upon diverse primary sources to encourage audiences ages 12 to 99 to think critically about propaganda, media consumption, and how social pressures can shape attitudes and behaviours.

The exhibition’s first international stop will be at the Zekelman Holocaust Center in Michigan, where it will be on view from July 2026 to January 2027. This milestone reflects the work of an incredible team of curators, researchers, designers, editors and collaborators, alongside the generous support of donors and partners who helped make this expansion possible.

At a time when Holocaust misinformation continues to challenge public understanding, this exhibition invites reflection on how persuasive communication influences work, and why critical thinking and media literacy remain essential to democratic life.

Those interested in hosting the travelling exhibit can contact Floreat Art Handling at 604-655-3883 or logistics@floreatarthandling.com to inquire about upcoming bookings and request an exhibition guide.

NEW PUBLICATIONS



The Wind Carries Me/Le Vent me porte

By Andrew Fuchs
(Azrieli Foundation)

June 8, 2026

Adult

In the Memoirs Program’s first bilingual memoir, readers can experience Andrew Fuchs’s story in French and English.

At eight years old, Andrew sees his carefree childhood vanish when the German army marches into Budapest in March 1944. Separated from his parents, Andrew endures constant bombings and close calls while living in protected children’s homes. With the war’s end comes devastating news — Andrew is now an orphan — yet he strives to hold on to his mischievous spirit as he rebuilds his life.

Introduction by Emily Standfield and Catherine Aubé

How To Walk a Dog

By Joanne Levy
 (Union Square Kids)
 October 2026
 Middle Grade

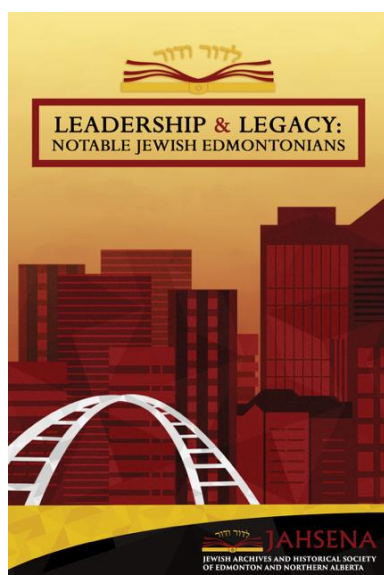
Joanne Levy is pleased to announce the release of *How to Walk a Dog*. Asher Abrams, a kid who just happens to have ADHD, in an effort to support his best friend who was teased when her period arrived unexpectedly and publicly, films a PSA to help end the stigma around menstruation for his school passion project. But then his hilarious (and informative) film goes viral.

***Here We Glow Again***

By Joanne Levy
 Cowritten by Marissa Meyer
 (Feiwei and Friends)
 February 2027
 Middle Grade

Joanne is also thrilled that her New York Times bestselling *Let it Glow* will soon have a sequel called *Here We Glow Again* (again cowritten with Marissa Meyer). Newly reunited twins Aviva and Holly celebrate Easter, Passover, and a whirlwind spring break full of hijinks in New York City.

Launch events to come. Keep an eye on joannelevy.com for the latest.

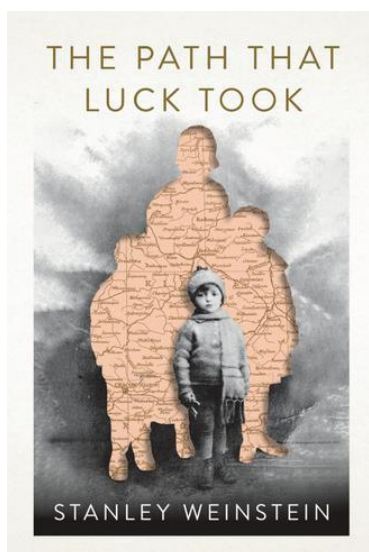
***Leadership & Legacy: Notable Jewish Edmontonians***

By Debby Shoctor
 (JAHSENA)
 May 2026
 Adult

The Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (JAHSENA) is pleased to announce the publication of a new book, entitled *Leadership & Legacy: Notable Jewish Edmontonians* that profiles members of our community who have made outstanding contributions to both Jewish and non-Jewish life in Edmonton, helping to make it the vibrant city it is today. Thanks to generous grant funding for its publication from the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, JAHSENA

was able to engage Debby Shctor to conduct extensive research and to complete the manuscript for this project, as well as to publish it. This publication will help to demonstrate to our own community, as well as to the outside world, the important contributions our members have made to life in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and the world.

Author Debby Shctor is the current President and former Archivist of JAHSENA. She has been preserving and telling the stories of Jewish Edmonton for over 35 years.



The Path That Luck Took

By Stanley Weinstein
(Azrieli Foundation)

New Release

Adult

The path of young Stanley's life takes an abrupt turn when Nazi Germany invades Poland in September 1939. Growing up in Jasło in south-eastern Poland, Stanley helps his parents sell goods at the market, plays with friends in the river, and goes to school with his sisters. But when the German soldiers arrive with their new rules for the town's Jews, who are eventually forced to live crammed into a small ghetto in one pocket of the city, Stanley is left bewildered at what his life has become. His path to survival finds

him bravely — or foolishly — sneaking into and out of ghettos and Nazi camps. To Stanley, moving from one ghetto to another, from forced labour camp to concentration camp, it's only by luck that he avoids the mass deportations to Belzec and other death camps, where arrival means death. From the infamous Plaszow camp to finally being liberated from Buchenwald, Stanley makes his way through the surprising and terror-filled *Path That Luck Took*.

Introduction by Thomas Pegelow Kaplan