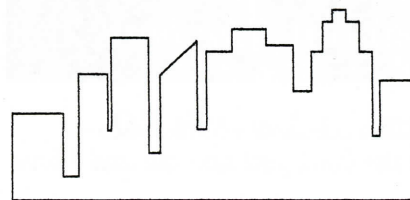


THE MISHPOCHA

MHOH ALUMNI



Editor: Judy Gordon

December 2002



BOOK Book BOOK !!!

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Thank you, thank you, thank you! The response from our Alumni has been just great! There are still a few more of you who have not yet ordered THE BOOK, but I intend to call you as a reminder!

Your comments have been fantastic and some are included in this newsletter. Judy (the author) and I have been on a roller coaster ride for the past few months. First, the reunion, then coming home to promote the book; then the Montreal and Toronto Jewish Book Fairs. The former did not attract too many people, but we were pleased to meet with some of our Alumni, and others, and 25 books were sold. Toronto went very well - we had an audience of about 150 to listen to us for one whole hour... no one talked, coughed or fidgeted! The Fair here served bagels and the fixings as well as 'us'!

All sold out of the first printing (500 books) and waiting for the next printing - already have another 15 or so orders to mail out. Just great! And *Four Hundred Brothers and Sisters* has not even hit the book stores yet! We are promoting the book to everyone we know, and I want to thank **Harvey Israel** for the tremendous job he has done selling for us in Montreal... to all his relatives, plus!

On the same lines, if you know anyone who might be interested in buying a book and you'd prefer we contact them, let us know by mail or you can call Harvey, 514-748-5454, and he can e-mail us.

What more can I tell you. You are all great and we love you. Looking forward as always to hearing from you. Please keep in touch, and remember...we will always have each other.

Hope your Chanukah was a great family time for all.

Love, little **Blackie Gordon**

Another reunion?

**When? Where?
How?**

**i.e., dinner, brunch,
an activity**

**Send in your suggestions,
make some phone calls,
get a consensus...
YOU must make
the decision!**

**What would have happened had three wise
Jewish women gone to Bethlehem instead
of three wise men?**

- They would have asked directions - Arrived on time
- Helped deliver the baby - Hired someone to clean the stable
- Made a brisket - And brought practical gifts.

And what would they have said to each other after they left?

- "Did you see the sandals Mary was wearing with that shmatta?"
- "That baby doesn't look anything like Joseph!"
- "Virgin? I knew her in school!"
- "Can you believe they let all of those disgusting animals in there?"
- "I heard that Joseph doesn't have a job."
- "And that donkey they are riding has seen better days!"
- "We'll just see how long it will take to get your brisket dish back."



Letters about 'the book'...



from Rose Manzi, St. Leonards, P.Q....

"I appreciate the book you sent me and I love it..."

from Marie Claire & Moe Letnick, White Rock, B.C.... *"Marvelous amount of work... I can see the research and love that has been put in this 'masterpiece'..."*

Linda August, Director, Montreal Jewish Family Services... *"your labour of love and commitment is most important as it captures both individual/personal history and the history of the entire Jewish community. I am grateful that you have identified JFS to receive the royalties; meanwhile we 'shep naches' from your achievement..."*

from Lionel Fishman, Peekskill, N.Y.... *"... my sister Muriel sent me a copy of your book, not knowing if I would be interested... I was about 4 or 5 when we were there (1934?) and I really have no memories of it... I did not think I would be interested in reading it either, but as a courtesy to Muriel, I thought I'd read a few pages... and I swear, I could not put it down. It was so interesting, not only the dynamics of the orphanage... but the history of Jews in Canada, in Montreal, the letters, the controversies, the biographies, the philanthropists... you so brilliantly captured not only the pulse of the time, but the pulse of the aftermath as well..."*

from Connie (Bercusson) Gore, Montreal... *"... I was very impressed with the format of the book and want to congratulate you both on this wonderful achievement. I particularly enjoyed reading about each one in the orphanage and especially what Earl remembers about our childhood. I was deeply moved and it brought back many memories. My children and grandchildren will treasure this book.*

As I reflect back, perhaps I would have been happier had I remained in the orphanage instead of being moved from one aunt to another. Both my parents passed away in the same year, so I was deprived of belonging anywhere and of being one of this big family of brothers and sisters..."

from Reva Schuman, Tulsa, Oklahoma... *"My inspiration to buy your book came from Muriel Fishman. I live with everlasting positive memories of the 8 years I spent in the orphanage, for which I am forever grateful. Good luck with your sale!"*

from Hannah Maritzer, Bloomfield, CT (friend of Max Matt)...

"Thanks, thanks for a joyful treat! Enclosed is a cheque for two books, plus I'd like to order another two!"

from Louise & Gordon Zakaib, Sherbrooke, PQ. (friends of the Gordons)... *"Thank you so much for allowing us to be a part of your heart warming, though at times sorrowful, history... Still think it would be great as a movie (with me as Myer's second!)"*

from Roz Van Zaig, Toronto (friend of the Gordons)... *"... Congratulations! What an endeavor. The book reads so easily and I am finding it fascinating..."*

from Prof. Gerald Tulchinsky, Queens' University, Kingston...

"What you've done here is enormously valuable for anyone interested in Jewish Montreal's social history. Continue, please, and write more of the same..."

from Muriel Fishman, Montreal...

"... I marvel at how much research went into the book... over such a short period of time... While the anecdotes were sometimes sad, they were uplifting for the most part. And to know that way back in those days, the Jewish community concerned itself with the welfare, education and future of the children in the orphanages..."

from Janice Rosen, Director Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives...

"... I am really impressed with the book and find it fascinating reading... am especially drawn to the stories you collected from the orphans themselves, with their recollection of life at the Home and how they related to the world outside it. These are unique accounts that we would otherwise not have access to in an archival setting.... You have really done credit to the memories of the alumni of the Home and, I expect, most especially to your husband Myer who sparked your interest in this subject. I hope you reach and enlighten many readers with this book..."

from Prof. Myron Echenberg, McGill University, Montreal....

"... You did a remarkable job in bringing this story to life... I'm enclosing a cheque to purchase a second copy as I'm planning to offer it to my friend as a gift."

from Sol Mayoff, Montreal...

"... You and Judy are wonderful for dedicating so much effort..."

NOW AVAILABLE!!!

Four Hundred Brothers and Sisters

(Lugus Productions Ltd., 2002)

YOUR story has been told...

Help us preserve this special piece of Canadian Jewish History... by purchasing a copy - one for yourself (and family), giving one as a gift... Chanukah, birthdays, anniversaries or 'just because'...

telling others about its importance
in Montreal's Jewish history,
recommending the book to stores.

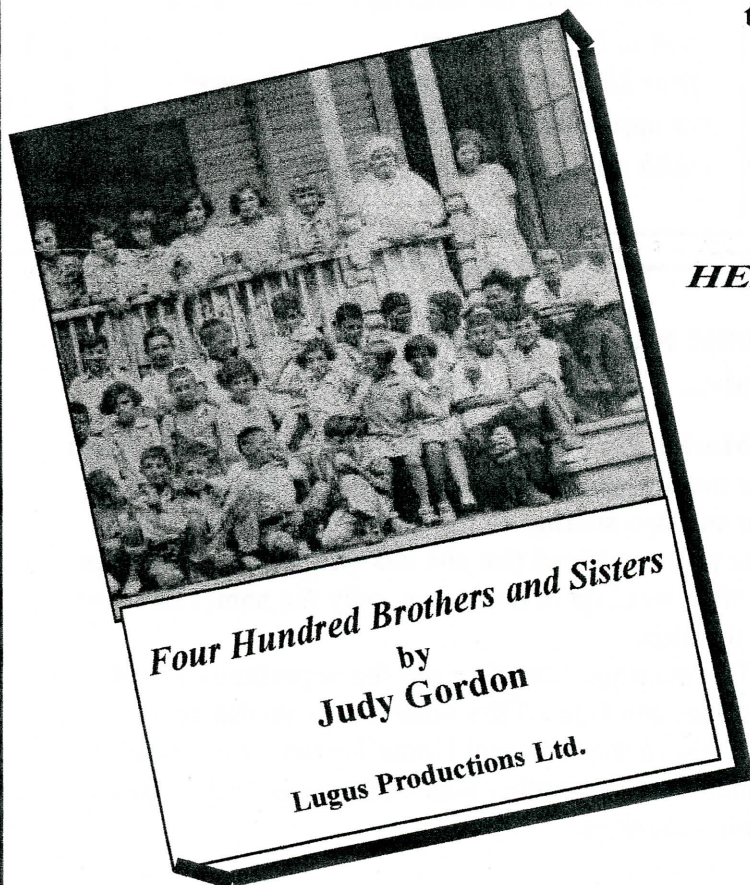
*A new (corrected) version
now available.*

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD

ALL Judy's proceeds (royalties)
are slated for the
MHOH Alumni Fund
to be sent, starting Spring 2003,
to Montreal's *Jewish Family Services*

For more information,
contact Judy or Myer:
416-221-3161...

or
e-mail at
mjnodrog@aol.com



*In Montreal, books can also be purchased through Harvey Israel,
760 Satim, St. Laurent, 514-748-5454...*

**I would like to purchase our *MHOH Book -
Four Hundred Brothers and Sisters -*
for \$25.00 - picked up (or add \$5.00 if by mail) -
\$20 U.S. funds includes mailing**

Enclosed is my cheque for \$ _____ for # _____ books

Name: _____ Tel. # _____

Address: _____ City/P/C/ _____

Please make cheque payable to MHOH Alumni & mail to:

The Gordons, 14 Alonzo Road, Toronto, Ontario M2R 1T5

The MHOH Alumni Group
is deeply saddened by the passing
of two of its own

Tillie Hoffman Simon
and
Tina Wiseman Rosen

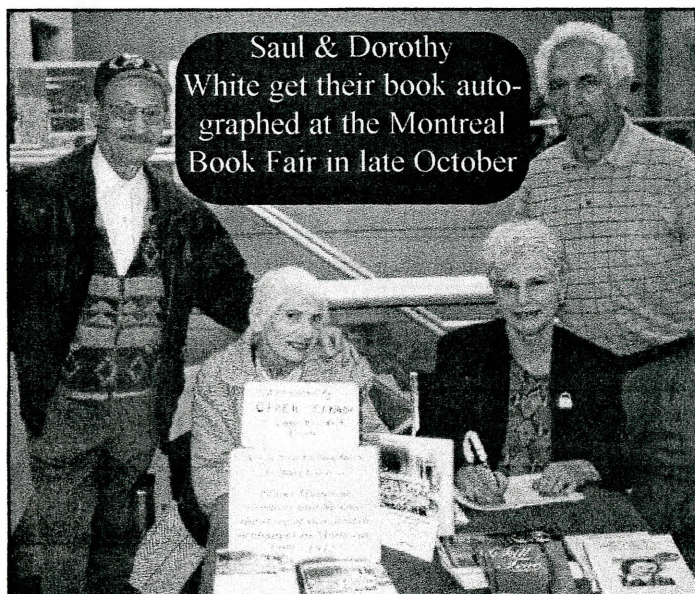
*Our sympathies (and donations)
have gone out to the
Hoffman Simon families
and to
Leonard Rosen and family*

Our Condolences to

- * **Annie Reisler** - Toronto
on the loss of her dear husband **Syd Thomas**
- * **Saul & Dorothy White** - Montreal
on the loss of Saul's brother **Mark**

Annie thanks the Alumni for the donation
made in Syd's memory.

*"Your kind words were very comforting
and appreciated. I wish you all good
health and happiness."*



Some anecdotes read at the Toronto Book Fair... - no last names used -

Muriel was put in the Home at 10 years of age when her mother was hospitalized with T.B. Her father took her and two siblings to the Home by streetcar. She was so traumatized that she has virtually no memories of what went on in the Home, only the names of some of the kids.

The reunions now offer her the opportunity to get together and hear all the reports of what did go on. She was in the Montreal Home for two years, after which time her mother was well enough to have her family reunited.

Nettie was in the Home with four siblings, from the age of 7 to 15. Her mother had died but she hadn't been to the funeral so never believed her mother was gone. She spent 8 years dreaming about searching for her.

She feels she learned her culture from the Home - the Supervisors encouraged the kids to put on plays, listen to opera and the latest music.

When her father remarried, he took the kids back home.

When NASA first started sending up astronauts, they quickly discovered that ballpoint pens would not work in zero gravity.

To combat the problem, NASA scientists spent a decade and \$1.2 billion to develop a pen that writes in zero gravity, upside down, underwater, on almost any surface including glass and at temperatures ranging from freezing to 300 Celsius.

Confronted with the same problem, the Israelis used a pencil.

We have been well-received by the local, mainly Jewish, press, both in Montreal and Toronto, with articles about *Four Hundred Brothers and Sisters...* Toronto & Montreal *CJNs*, Montreal's *Suburban*, two *Toronto Posts*, *The Jewish Standard*, *BBC's Tribune* and *North York Mirror*. Now we hope 'to make' the *Star*, *National Post* and *Gazette*!