

November 23, 1981  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canada to honour Jewish scholar on his 90th birthday

In the presence of representatives of federal, provincial and municipal governments, eminent Canadian scholar Professor Solomon Asher Birnbaum will be honoured by distinguished academic, spiritual and community leaders. Dr. Birnbaum, who will reach the age of 90 on December 24, has devoted his life to pioneer research in two major fields of Jewish studies -- Jewish languages and the development of the Hebrew script. Canadian Jewish Congress and Toronto Jewish Public Library are sponsoring this community celebration on Sunday, December 13, at 3 p.m. at the Baycrest Terrace, 55 Ameer Ave., Toronto. Professor Arthur Kruger, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto, will preside.

Solomon Birnbaum's first research was printed when he was only 13 years old. In the 77 years since then, he has opened up several new areas of research. One is Jewish languages. His latest book, entitled "Yiddish," was published by the University of Toronto Press in 1979 and instantly became a classic. He is also the world's greatest expert on the development of Hebrew writing, on which he wrote the first comprehensive work, a 2-volume study entitled "The Hebrew Scripts." When the sensational Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947 by a shepherd boy in the desert caves of Qumran, not far from Jericho, a great controversy arose as to their age. Dr. Birnbaum was able to date them authoritatively right away.

Solomon Birnbaum was born in Vienna in 1891, eldest son of the famous Dr. Nathan Birnbaum, a seminal Jewish thinker and activist, whose stormy career took him from the struggles of the early founders of Zionism (a term he coined) long before Theodore Herzl, to the discovery of his religious roots and the creation of a new order of spiritual renaissance, the "OYLIM" ("the Ascenders") in his later years. Though a devoted follower of his father, Solomon Birnbaum's life's work has had quite a different style. A scholar's scholar, he toiled quietly at his pioneer research, constructing a most impressive body of knowledge, first in Central and Eastern Europe, and, after escaping from the Nazis, in England. He taught at London University for over 20 years.

With his gifted wife and collaborator Irene, Dr. Birnbaum settled in Canada in 1970, to join their sons, Toronto University Professor, Eleazar Birnbaum, a specialist in Middle Eastern languages and literatures, and David Birnbaum, an environmental expert, city planner and architect. His eldest son, Jacob Birnbaum, founder and (U.S.) national director of the Center for Russian and East European Jewry and of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, lives in New York, and his married daughter, Eva Guttentag, a dedicated community worker, lives in England.

*The Canadian Jewish Congress  
The Israel Frankel  
Jewish Public Library of Toronto  
The Friends and Family of  
Dr. Solomon A. Birnbaum  
cordially invite you to join in a*

*Celebration of his  
90th Birthday*

*on*

*Sunday, December 13, 1981  
at 3 p.m.*

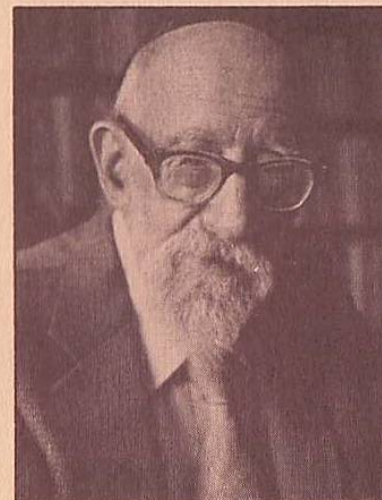
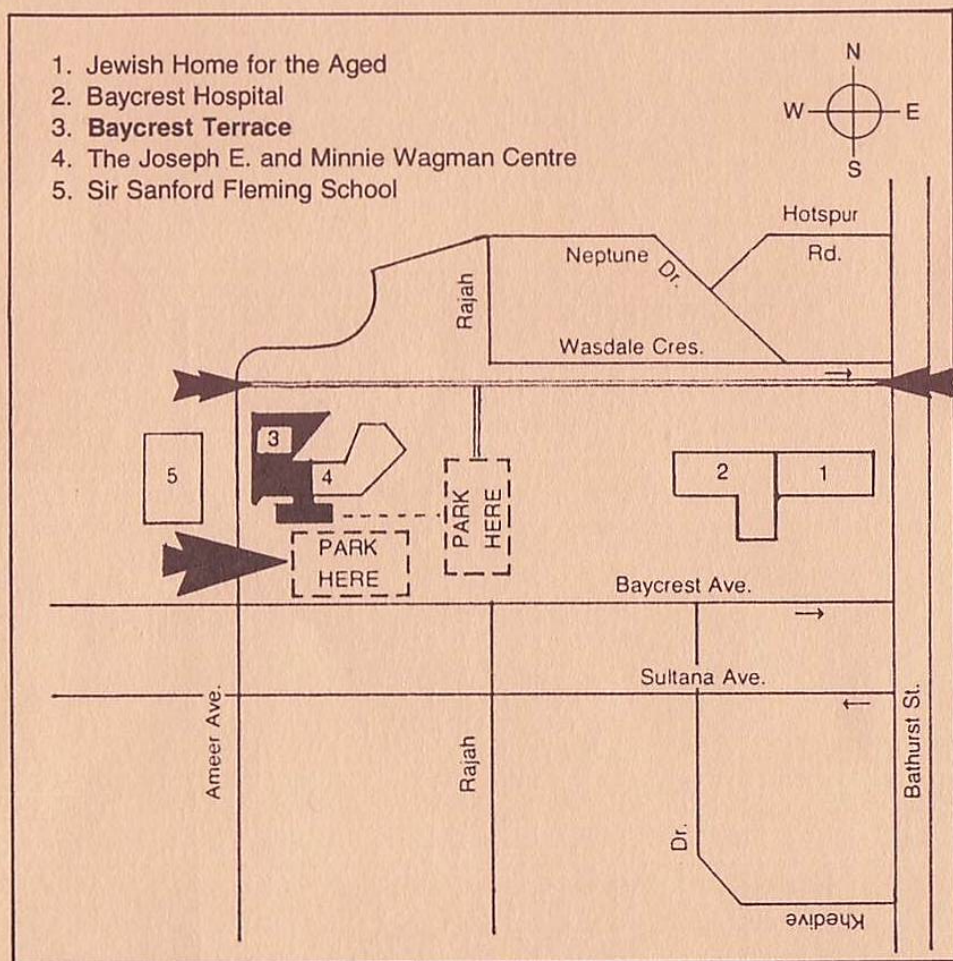
*at*

*Baycrest Terrace  
(Fireside Lounge)  
55 Ameer Ave., Toronto*

*RSVP  
CJC 977-3811 or 636-0277*

*Map on  
reverse*





*90<sup>th</sup>*  
*Birthday Celebration*  
*of*  
*Professor Solomon A. Birnbaum*



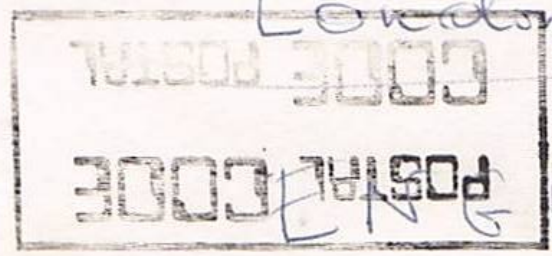
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