

## John Sainsbury

The Brock community lost an important figure this week with the death of John Sainsbury, retired Professor Emeritus in the Department of History. Sainsbury, who died Tuesday, Nov. 14, was 71.

“John Sainsbury was an erudite and witty colleague. He was an important contributor to the growth of the Department of History, the Faculty of Humanities and Brock University. He will be sorely missed,” says Carol Merriam, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities.



Born in England, Sainsbury came to Canada in the late 1970s to complete a PhD at McGill after having obtained his BA and MA at Cambridge.

His first book, *Disaffected Patriots*, made a major contribution to research on English sympathizers of the American Revolution, while his second book was a

biography of John Wilkes and received high praise for the deep look it took at Wilkes' life.

As a department chair, the first-ever Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research for the Faculty of Humanities and a Brock Senator, Sainsbury was a powerful voice throughout his career with the ability to push colleagues to take the right course of action.

“John was a leader, a mentor and a friend,” said Daniel Samson, Chair of the Department of History. “He was savvier and funnier than most of us combined. We will miss him enormously.”

Jane McLeod, who followed Sainsbury as department chair, said he was a key figure in moving the department forward to become a major research centre. “His imagination and drive made the department forward looking on all fronts,” she said.

Sainsbury was a respected teacher whose courses on British history were popular and his seminars on witchcraft and libertinism offered students powerful introductions to important topics. Several of his students went on to complete PhDs.

His career took him to many places — from teaching at McGill, Brown, Western and the American University in Cairo, he also worked as a reporter for several years at the *National Examiner*. While many academics might have buried this detail as an unfortunate low-point in his search for a university job, Sainsbury

## Francess G. Halpenny (1919–2017)

Francess G. Halpenny, who passed away on 25 December 2017, officially served as General Editor of the DCB/DBC from 1969 to 1988, and, working with her counterparts at the Université Laval, oversaw the completion of ten volumes of the Dictionary, comprising more than 5,000 biographies – a truly remarkable achievement.



She adhered to and furthered the principles on which the Dictionary was based – a bilingual partnership with the Université Laval (with the result that the DCB/DBC became and remains the most important bilingual project in the Canadian humanities); the organization of biographies by period of death date rather than alphabetically; and the insistence that the biographies be based on primary sources – a practice that distinguishes the DCB/DBC from all other dictionaries of national biography.

*Dictionary of Canadian Biography | Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*

relished it, telling many wonderful stories and reminding his colleagues that none of them ever got to make up their own facts.

Everyone who knew Sainsbury also knew his wife, Lisa. Their dinners were legendary, the conversations always engaging and the evenings long. The couple made people feel welcome.

Sainsbury was also a mentor, assisting new arrivals to Brock over the years.

“John and Lisa were two of the first people to make us feel like members of the Brock community,” said Professor Andrew McDonald, who came to Brock in 2002. “We were struck by their warmth, sincerity, compassion and humanity.”

Sainsbury is predeceased by his wife Lisa. He is survived by sons Edward and Ben. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, Nov. 25 at 11 a.m. at the Hulse and English Funeral Home and Chapel in St. Catharines.

*The Brock News*

### Gerald Tulchinsky

Gerald Tulchinsky, a much-loved professor and prolific author who chronicled Canada's Jewish history and its many colourful characters, died at his home in Kingston, Ont., on Dec. 13, after a lengthy bout with cancer. He was 84. Tulchinsky began his professional career as a historian of Canadian business and labour, but later expanded his interests to include Canadian Jewish history. His book, *Taking Root: The Origins of the Canadian Jewish Community*, which covers the period from 1762 to 1920, was published in 1992. A second volume, *Branching Out: the Transformation of the Canadian Jewish Community*, came out in 1998. His other books included *Canada's Jews: A People's Journey* (2008); *Joe Salsberg: A Life of Commitment* (2013); and *Shtetl on the Grand* (2015), a collection of short stories. His first volume, *The River Barons: Montreal Businessmen and the Growth of Industry and Transportation, 1837-53*, published in 1977, was based on his doctoral thesis, which was supervised by J.M.S. Careless, a giant of Canadian history. The work exposed Tulchinsky to the Canadian Jewish merchants who lived in Montreal at the time.



Gerald Jacob Joseph Tulchinsky was born in Brantford, Ont., on Sept. 9, 1933, to Harry and Anne Tulchinsky. He was educated at the University of Toronto and McGill University. He taught history to generations of students at Queen's University from 1966 until 2000 and was director of the university's Jewish studies program after he retired from the history department. He wrote and edited dozens of articles on business, transportation, immigration and anti-Semitism.

"If one were to look up mensch, one would find Jerry's photograph," remarked fellow historian Frank Bialystok. "Above all, Jerry was generous, unpretentious, supportive and opinionated. He was a wonderful and inspiring teacher to students, colleagues and audiences." Tulchinsky was searching for photographs for his latest work, a history of the Canadian clothing industry, the day before he died, Bialystok added. "We may never see the likes of him again." Ira Robinson, professor of Judaic studies at Concordia University in Montreal, said Tulchinsky will be remembered as a major scholar "who successfully fostered the transition between the study of Canadian Jewry as a subject largely of interest within the Jewish community, to a topic of academic importance and relevance within Canadian universities. "His synthesis of Canadian Jewish history remains the standard by which any other interpretation of that history will be measured."

University of Toronto sociologist Robert Brym, a leading scholar of Jewish trends, said Tulchinsky was "the dean of Canadian Jewish historians. His work laid the foundation for future research on the history of Canadian Jewry and will be recognized as such for many generations." Historian Erna Paris echoed similar sentiments. She considers Tulchinsky "among Canada's foremost scholars of Canadian Jewish history. His loss to the community is a substantial one, but I am confident that his books and articles will continue to enlighten Canadian readers for years to come." Morton Weinfeld, a sociology professor at McGill University, said Tulchinsky's work was "outstanding" because he blended two perspectives: "He was a historian who understood that Jewish life in Canada was a result of the intersection of the Jewish experience and the Canadian context. He knew both. He had an eye for details that could illustrate broad themes. He was a superb scholar and colleague." Michael Marrus of the University of Toronto knew Tulchinsky as "a fair-minded, gentle scholar" and "a devoted teacher and colleague," while William Shaffir, a sociologist who has also studied Canadian Jewish trends, said Tulchinsky was "the foremost academic of Canadian Jewry. A prolific scholar, his work laid the foundation for anyone interested in Jews in Canada. His research was meticulous and opened the door for making studies of Canadian Jewry reputable beyond the Jewish community."

Tulchinsky is survived by his wife of 56 years (Ruth), three children (Steve, Ellen and Laura), two grandchildren, a brother (Ted) and a sister (Norma Sautman).

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