

ירשה

Heritage - Yerusha  
Summer 2011  
Shevat 5771  
VOLUME 13, NO. 3  
www.jahsena.ca



# HERITAGE

The Journal of THE JEWISH ARCHIVES & HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF EDMONTON & NORTHERN ALBERTA

## INSIDE



Jews in  
Radio

page 4



Letters  
from the  
Lost

page 7



Children's  
Book  
Authors

page 8

## Open House

July 10th &  
17th, 1-3 pm

## Israel Bonds Function, ca. 1970



JAHSENA Archives photo, donated by Marilyn & Jack Cohen

**Back row:** Unknown, Arliss Miller, Belle Greene, Merle Weinlos, Lil Pakes, Lil Cohen Siegel, Fanny Wedrow, Evelyn Postone, Fran Balzberg, Minnie Pekarsky, Unknown, Saul Dlin.

**Front row:** Unknown, Mrs. Kachuk, Freda Slutker, Unknown, Dora Kagan, Becky Bloomfield, Helen Dlin



## Remembrance and Jewish Genealogy

### Ask the Genealogist

by CAROLINE ULLMAN

On May 26, JAHSENA and the Jewish Federation of Edmonton hosted Helen Waldstein Wilkes author of *Letters From the Lost: A Memoir of Discovery*. Although she and her parents escaped from Prague in 1939 and came to Canada, their extended family remained in Czechoslovakia and perished in the Holocaust; letters from these relatives were saved by her father.

Helen finally came to read the letters in 1996 when she turned 60 and began a journey into her family's past. In her talk, she discussed the importance of remembering; of our responsibility to erase Hitler's work and to bring back to life, as it were, those that were lost in the Shoah. Without us to remember them, they can be lost with the passing of time and the passing of those who knew them.

This idea of remembrance is often the motivation for Jewish genealogists. Recently, Zalman Vaynshteyn asked JAHSENA for help in researching his past. His father, Yaakov Alter, escaped from the Brest Ghetto and never heard from his parents, three sisters, or grandparents again. Zalman did not know the names of his father's sisters because his father had found it too painful to speak of them.

We searched the on-line database at: [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org), and found many "Wajnsztejns". In the Brest ghetto, all Jews over the age of 13 were required to obtain identity papers, which included the names, ages, and the names and dates of birth of

their parents. After contacting the scholars who had archived the Brest ghetto documents, we were told that we were "lucky" because the Brest Ghetto Passport Archive was unique; photos were taken of all the passport applicants. After we narrowed down our search to a few names, we were able to obtain the documents from Yad Vashem.

Zalman learned that one of his father's sisters was named Ester and she was born in 1919. She was five years younger than Zalman's father. Her parents were named Alter Zalman and Liba. Liba was born in 1890 in Brest; her parents were Shmuel and Fraidla. Alter Zalman's parents were Alter and Dwojra Rejzla. Alter was born in 1872 and his parents were named Bracha and Leib. Dwojra Rejzla was born in 1872 and her parents were Shloma and Doba.

With this information, Zalman's grandson, Moshe Burg, is able to trace his family tree back six generations. Zalman now has the photographs, the signatures, and the fingerprints of his aunt, his grandparents, and his great-grandparents! He now knows that one of his father's sisters was named Ester and after comparing the photos, he is convinced that he sees a family resemblance (I saw the pictures – I see it too!) Although we weren't able to find his father's other two sisters yet (we think that they were married and are listed under their married last names), we haven't finished searching.

We haven't finished searching....

# ירשה HERITAGE

The Journal of the Jewish  
Archives & Historical Society  
of Edmonton and Northern  
Alberta

PRESIDENT

**Jini Vogel**

ARCHIVIST & EDITOR

**Debby Shoctor**

TREASURER

**Howard Davidow**

SECRETARY

**Hal Simons**

VICE PRESIDENTS

**Judy Goldsand**

**Miriam Rabinovitch**

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

**Dr. Manuel Friedman,**

**Dr. Eric Schloss,**

**Mel Wyne,**

**Caroline Ullman,**

**Phil Lister**

PAST-PRESIDENT

**Dan Kauffman**

FOUNDING PRESIDENT

**Uri Rosenzweig**

GRAPHIC DESIGN

**PageMaster**

MAILING ADDRESS

**JAHSENA, 7200-156 St.,  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5R 1X3,**

Telephone: (780) 489-2809

Fax: (780) 481-1854

Email: [jahsena@shaw.ca](mailto:jahsena@shaw.ca)

Website: [www.jahsena.ca](http://www.jahsena.ca)

# Wheel of Conscience

Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and Pier 21 are delighted to announce the unveiling of an historical monument - the first of its kind - by internationally-acclaimed architect and designer Daniel Libeskind. The monument, known as the **Wheel of Conscience**, will memorialize Canada's 1939 refusal of entry to the 900-plus Jewish refugees on board the M.S. St. Louis and the "none is too many" exclusionary anti-Jewish immigration policy that it epitomized. The monument will be housed in the Rudolph P. Bratty Permanent Exhibition at Pier 21-Canada's Immigration Museum, in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The Wheel of Conscience is the centre-piece of a CJC national project, generously sponsored by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, to educate Canadians, especially youth, about the St. Louis incident and its impact on Canada's society and immigration history. The Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, brought greetings on behalf of the Government of Canada at the unveiling.

"We are honoured to work with the Canadian Jewish Congress, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Daniel Libeskind on this special memorial project," said Robert Moody, CEO of Pier 21 Canada's Immigration Museum. "Pier 21 pays tribute to those who walked through these doors, along with those who were not given the same opportunity. This monument will inspire reflection on both past and present immigration policies, while encouraging thoughtful conversations among Canadians," said Moody.

"We are tremendously inspired by the 'Wheel of Conscience' historical monument," said CJC National President Mark J. Freiman. "Daniel Libeskind's outstanding talent, creativity, and vision as an artist as well as his deep personal sensitivity towards



Photo by Katie Ingram, University of King's College School of Journalism

both the tragedy of the Holocaust and the refugee experience are reflected in the monument. The 'Wheel of Conscience' memorializes a dark chapter in Canada's immigration history; but it also offers a valuable forward-looking vision and a road map for ensuring a better future for all Canadians," said Freiman.

"I am thrilled to create a work of art for Canada's Immigration Museum at Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The composition as a whole is inspired by the desperate plight of the Jewish refugees and their tragic destiny on the ship M.S. St. Louis. This work of memory will express the importance of eradicating the evils of hatred, racism, xenophobia

and antisemitism. It is this particular story which is embedded in a dynamically moving memorial," said Libeskind.

"Today's date also holds a special historical significance," said Bernie M. Farber, CEO of Canadian Jewish Congress. "It was on January 20, 1942 that a meeting of senior Nazi officials took place in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee. The outcome of the Wannsee Conference was an order to institute the 'Final Solution to the Jewish Question,' which spawned the systematic annihilation by the Nazis and their collaborators of six million Jews, including 1.5 million Jewish children."

## Grant Received for Oral History Digitization and Access Project

Thanks to the Archives Society of Alberta's Access to Holdings Grant Program, which is funded by the Alberta Historical Research Foundation, we will begin the process of converting our Oral History tapes to digitized MP3 format this summer. The approximately 200 tapes will be converted from their magnetic reel-to-reel and audiocassette formats to digital format, so they can be better preserved, copied and used by our researchers.

These tapes, which date from the early 1970s to today, are currently on old magnetic tape, which is very fragile and deteriorates easily. By converting them to MP3 digital format, we will be able to preserve them for generations to come. They will also be easier to access via computer and web. This project will enable the digitization of most of our older tapes. Excerpts from the collection will be available online after the digitization process is complete.



# BROADCAST MEDIA: Jewish Edmontonians in Radio, Television, and Film

## PART ONE: RADIO

By PAULA E. KIRMAN

Numerous Jewish people in Edmonton have had successful careers in broadcast media, either as on-air personalities or behind the scenes. Most are only known locally, while others went on to have national or even international careers. This first installment of a three-part series looks at Jewish radio personalities.



Irv Shore, supplied photo

### IRV SHORE

Known as “Uncle Irv” to his listeners, Shore was active in broadcasting for 46 years. He began in 1948 at CHAT in Medicine Hat as a staff announcer, until 1953. He then moved to Edmonton and spent 20 years as the Morning Man on CFRN. He ended his career in 1990 on CHQT doing the nine-to-noon shift.

Shore hosted the first media tours in Western Canada. He would travel to destinations like Hawaii, cruises in the Caribbean, Mexico, Alaska, and Disneyland, with a group of loyal fans in tow.

After retiring from broadcasting, Shore went into the promotions field with the company Creative Concepts.



Cecil “Tiger” Goldstick,  
JAHSENA Archives photo

### TIGER GOLDSTICK

Cecil “Tiger” Goldstick, z'l (1915-2006) was a sports broadcaster with CFRN for 21 years. Known for his sense of humour both on and off the air, he was devoted to sports and would do a “sports drive” each December to gather equipment for needy young people. Sports Central continues this important work to this day. Goldstick was also the son of the first rabbi in Edmonton, Hyman Goldstick, and was a well-known character in the broadcasting world. He interviewed many sports legends who visited our city, including World-Champion boxer Muhammed Ali. For more information on Tiger, please see *Heritage/Yerusha* Vol 7, No. 3.



“Uncle” Lew  
Roskin,  
supplied photo

### “UNCLE” LEW ROSKIN

Lewis Roskin, z'l was born July 16, 1920 in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and died December 26, 2009 in Edmonton. At the age of 16, in the fall of 1936, he entered an amateur radio broadcasting announcing contest, sponsored by local radio station CJOC in Lethbridge, AB. Judges awarded him the grand prize (\$15) for having “...a voice of high caliber and very promising for a future in radio.” He began his career in radio in Lethbridge, and worked in radio stations in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Dawson Creek, Calgary, Vancouver, and back to Edmonton, culminating as co-founder, president and general manager of CHQT, now iNews 880, in 1965. Lew served two terms as President of the Broadcasters’ Association of Alberta, two terms as a director of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, and one term as president of the Western Association of Broadcasters. In 1984, Lew received the Golden Jubilee Award of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, and in 1985, the Ad Club of Edmonton named him “The Advertising Man of the Year.” In 2000, Lewis Roskin was inducted into the CAB Broadcast Hall of Fame. Lew had three children, including son Craig, who went into the “family business”, managing both Global Edmonton and City TV.



Norma Nozick, JAHSENA Archives photo

### **NORMA NOZICK**

Norma Nozick (born in Winnipeg in 1921) was a well-known singer throughout Manitoba. In particular, she entertained the troops during World War II when she toured with a group who visited all of the military camps in Manitoba. She was their solo singer and Mistress of Ceremonies. She began her radio career in Winnipeg with her own Sunday night weekly program on a local station. It was a musical program where she sang for 30 minutes. In addition, her singing led her to do a lot of stage work, concerts, weddings, and she also earned a degree from the University of Manitoba, where she did a lot of acting and drama. She moved with her husband Mandle, z'l (whom she married in 1947) to Edmonton in 1950 after the first major flood in Winnipeg helped them make the decision to relocate.

After she got settled in Edmonton, she did a lot of drama with the Alberta School of Broadcasting. Colin Maclean was one of the directors she worked under. "I did many, many broadcasts," she says, from her home in Calgary. She continued singing, but not to the same degree as she did in Winnipeg, and recalls having a part in one of Joe Shoctor's early musical productions. She spent quite a while working at CFRN radio and television doing writing and promotions during the time that Irv Shore was one of the broadcasters. After that, she went back to her "real" work as a cataloguer at the University of Alberta. She also became more involved in the community with Beth Shalom, Talmud Torah,

and, Hadassah. In later years she became involved with the Jewish Drop-In Centre, where she did a lot of singing, programming, publicity, and promotion.

Nozick now resides in Calgary where one of her two daughters lives. Mandle, who had his own insurance agency, was on the Board of Jahsena for many years before he passed away in July of 2008.

Henry Singer,  
JAHSENA Archives  
photo

### **HENRY SINGER**

Henry Singer, z'l was not only a pioneer entrepreneur for men's clothing, but also in radio advertising. He did the voice-overs for most of his company's advertising between 1950 and 1970. As well, he co-founded, along with Moe Lieberman and Joe Shoctor (more on Shoctor below) the Edmonton Eskimos football team, for which he did radio commentary as well. Singer began his clothing career in 1938 by opening his first clothing store with only \$300 to his name. The company is still going strong, with three locations of Henry Singer in Edmonton. He was married to Millie, and their son Fred now runs the clothing empire.

### **JOE SHOCTOR**

Dr. Joseph H. Shoctor, z'l (1922-2001) is best known in Edmonton as the founder of the Citadel Theatre. However, he was also a frequent guest on many radio programs. He also had his own program on CFRN for a while, called "The Joey Shoctor Show." According to Tommy Banks, Shoctor's show "sounded very much like the big-time American network shows of the day. Joe was a showman from the get-go." Although not broadcast on the air,



Joe Shoctor, JAHSENA Archives photo

only at the games, Shoctor also did the on-field play by play of Edmonton Eskimos football games for a number of years, and many fans still remember him walking up and down the sidelines in his raccoon coat, microphone in hand.



Barry and Zachary Vogel, supplied photo

### **BARRY VOGEL**

Vogel co-hosted a teen show with Senator Tommy Banks on CKUA in the 1950s when both men were still in high school. "Teen Varieties" lasted for two seasons, and was Edmonton's first "TV" show. There was no television here in the early '50s – that was a play on the initials of the title," says Banks. The hour-long program aired on CKUA and "consisted of interviews, event announcements, live musical performances by a small orchestra, and of course, popular recordings."

Vogel went on to become a DJ on CHED when he was a student at

*Continued on page 6*

## BROADCAST MEDIA

*Continued from page 5*

the University of Alberta. Radio was something he did during the summer breaks while he attended law school at the U of A, until he was admitted to the bar in 1960. After that, he practiced law at the firm Witten and the Law Society of Alberta. He moved to B.C. around ten years ago and ran a legal consulting firm. Vogel is now retired and lives in Victoria.



Dasha Goody, JAHSENA Archives photo

**DASHA GOODY**

Dasha Shaw Goody, z'l (born in Edmonton in April of 1922) is best known as the founder of Edmonton Musical Theatre. She began her own musical career as a vocalist at the age of 14 and won numerous awards for her involvement in the musical theatre community, such as the Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Performing Arts in 1990. She was also a producer and program director with several Edmonton radio stations, including CHED (as a writer/producer), CHQT (Music Director, where she wrote jingles), and CBC Radio (Music/Drama Producer and the singer/narrator of a weekly half-hour radio series). At the same time, she was establishing her career in musical theatre by starting her first musical group, Orion Theatre in 1952. "The radio was her day job and the musical group was her night job. She was constantly working with

both things," says daughter Brandy Goody Graesser. Goody was inducted into the City of Edmonton Cultural Hall of Fame in 1995. She was married to Joe Goody, z'l, and had two children, Dan, z'l, and Brandy. She passed away in June of 2001.

**SUSAN FREEDMAN**

Susan Freedman spent 16 years with CBC as a Producer, Executive Producer, Communications Manager and Director of Radio; (Edmonton and Calgary) and four years as Marketing Director of The Vancouver Fringe Festival ('95-'98). Susan currently lives in Vancouver and has written and starred in two, one-woman Fringe plays which toured Canada coast to coast.



Gillian Horwitz, JAHSENA Archives photo

**GILLIAN HORWITZ**

*The Jewish Hour* was both a radio and television program during the 1980s. Cory Felber did the television broadcast, while Gillian Horwitz handled the radio portion exclusively on CKER. The show ran for 12-15 years. "In the beginning we got a lot of canned stuff from Israel," says Horwitz. "A lot of our features were already taped, and we also did a lot of local interviews and played music."

The hour-long show eventually was trimmed down to a half hour. "We had sponsors, then we couldn't get any sponsors, but they always made space for us,"

Horwitz explains. Although the show was well-liked, the station eventually stopped paying the fee used to pay guests an honorarium, and the show was discontinued.

Gillian hails originally from Captown, South Africa, but has lived in Edmonton for over 30 years. She has, from the start, been heavily involved in the Jewish Community, especially Hadassah-WIZO and the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, of which she is the current President.



Mike Sobel, supplied photo

**MIKE SOBEL**

Sobel started his radio career in Weyburn, Saskatchewan in 1979, after which he moved on to CKCK Regina, where he spent the next six months. He moved to Edmonton and joined CRFN Edmonton (now Team 1260) where he worked for two years. Over the next nine years were stints at CJAX 92 (now KING FM) and Power 92 (now JOE FM). He then went on to CISM for ten years and after taking a break, went back into radio when Magic 99 launched in 2005. Sobel left Magic in August of 2010. Mike is well-known for his charity work in Edmonton's Jewish and non-Jewish communities. He is married to Jane Goldberg, who for many years taught aerobics at the JCC and other Edmonton-area health clubs, and together they have two sons.

**RABBI YITZ (LORNE) WYNE**

Rabbi Yitzchak Wyne is the son of Edmontonian Mel Wyne, and has a radio





Rabbi Yitz (Lorne) Wyne, supplied photo

program in Las Vegas. He is the founder of and has been the spiritual leader of the congregation Young Israel Aish in Vegas since 1995. He is also the host of *The Rabbi Show* on KDWN 720 AM. As well, Rabbi Wyne has hosted his own weekly interview/talk show for a local TV station, entitled *Your Life*. He also developed and starred in a 30-minute television program called *A Jewish Homecoming*, as an introduction to Orthodox Judaism. Rabbi Wyne also launched and facilitates a non-denominational inspirational social program called "The Joyful Living Club" and records a weekly three-minute Torah for Living video on YouTube. He served briefly here in Edmonton as Youth Director at the Beth Israel Synagogue. He and his wife Helene have six children.

Several of the people discussed in this article, particularly Mike Sobel and Tiger Goldstick (but also Joseph Shoctor, Dasha Goody, and Cory Felber) are also known for their work in television. We will examine their careers further in the next installment of this series, which looks at members of Edmonton's Jewish community involved in television.

## "Letters from the Lost: A Memoir of Discovery"

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, JAHSENA hosted a Spring Program in conjunction with the Jewish Federation of Edmonton. Our guest was Helen Waldstein Wilkes, author of *Letters from the Lost: A Memoir of Discovery*.

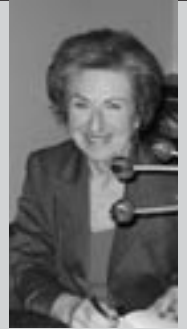
This was our second Spring Program held in conjunction with another organization. Last year, we hosted Rabbi Baskin, together with the University of Alberta Libraries. While she was here, Helen was also a guest speaker at the annual Holocaust Symposium for Grade 12 students, held annually by the Jewish Federation of Edmonton Holocaust Education Committee to educate students about the Holocaust.

On March 15, 1939, Helen Waldstein's father snatched his stamped exit visa from a distracted clerk to escape from Prague with his wife and child. As the Nazis closed in on a war-torn Czechoslovakia, only letters from their extended family could reach Canada through the barriers of conflict. The Waldstein family received these letters as they made their lives on a southern Ontario farm, where they learned to be Canadian and forget their Jewish

roots. When Helen read these letters as an adult, everything changed. As her past refused to keep silent, Helen followed the trail of the letters back to Europe, where she discovered living witnesses who could attest to the letters' contents. She has here interwoven their stories and her own into a compelling narrative of suffering, survivor guilt, and overcoming intergenerational obstacles when exploring a traumatic past.

Since receiving her Ph.D. in French Literature, Helen Waldstein Wilkes spent 30 years teaching at every level in Canada and in the U.S. Her research interests include cross-cultural understanding, language acquisition, and neurolinguistics. Now retired and living in Vancouver, she is actively examining her own cultural inheritance and its impact.

Helen's book is published by Athabasca University Press, and is available at Audrey's Bookstore on Jasper Avenue, or you can order it from: [www.aupress.ca](http://www.aupress.ca). It won the Alberta Reader's Choice Book Award.



## "FROM PEDLARS TO PATRIARCHS: A LEGACY REMEMBERED" and "BITTERSWEET MEMORIES: THE WAR YEARS"

The Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta is taking orders for copies of "From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered," and its sequel: "Bittersweet Memories: The War Years" its documentary films about the history of the Edmonton Jewish Community. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of these films, they are available on DVD for \$18. Please contact the Archives office at 780-489-2809.



# Local Jewish Authors of Books for Children and Young Adults

By MARNI DLIN

Writing a book is no easy feat. Writing books that children and young adults will read and enjoy is an even more daunting task, requiring self discipline, imagination, fortitude, and determination. Here are a few of our local Jewish authors, whose wonderful books will delight and inform all readers, young and old.

**Rebecca Sklofsky** had a list of things she wanted to do before she was 30. One of the items on her list was to write a



Rebecca Sklofsky, supplied photo



Lillian Soroka, supplied photo

book. So she did just that. Little did she know the hard part was just beginning. Looking for an illustrator and a publisher took the next three years. She chose a local illustrator, Jared MacPherson, who works for Plume Heavy, a graphic design company. She decided to self-publish, as she had sent her book to several places and had not heard back from most of them. She says it was a huge learning curve and quite an undertaking. Unfortunately, in the last few years, many Canadian publishers have closed their doors, making the market even tougher.

Rebecca's first book, **Wrong Way, Gimli**, is the story of a directionally challenged goose, who learns through dealing with his friends that everyone has difficulties and by working as a team, any problem can be resolved.

Now 34, she has written and self-published her second children's book, again illustrated by Jared MacPherson, entitled **Scaredy Goat**, about a little goat who faints when he is scared. He and his barnyard friends eventually learn that everyone

is different in some way but this can be a very good thing and it is what makes each of us special. She says this time publishing it was much easier as she knew the ropes and the hoops she had to jump through, so she was able to accomplish it more quickly.

Rebecca's books are available by ordering from [www.wrongwaygimli.com](http://www.wrongwaygimli.com) and are carried at Shambles and Urban Retreat in Edmonton, and Seasons, in St. Albert.

**Lillian Soroka**, 85, received both a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alberta. She then taught elementary school for 23 years, while raising her four children. She always loved poetry and wrote her own poems. Her love of poetry as well as children, prompted her to start her writing career at the age of 80.

**Who is Penelope Park?** is Lillian's first published book. It is an introduction to a sweet red-headed little girl, named Penelope Park, who enjoys life. She has a happy family, loves animals and playing with her friends. She is a role model for children who read this book. Lillian has



more in the Penelope Park series, and hopes one day to have them published.

This book was illustrated by one of Lillian's granddaughters, Brenley Charkow, who lives in Toronto and is an actress, singer, and artist.

To order a copy of this book, go to [www.penelopeparkpublishing.com](http://www.penelopeparkpublishing.com) or email [penelope.park.books@gmail.com](mailto:penelope.park.books@gmail.com)

**Marlee Soroka** is another one of Lillian's granddaughters. Now 16, she wrote a story for a Grade 9 English Language Arts project. The idea was to write a children's story, with a Dr. Seuss theme.

With a lot of hard work and some angst, Marlee completed her project, even doing all the illustrations herself, except for one character, contributed by her sister, Jenna. Her family and friends really thought it was a special story, with an important message and encouraged her to publish it and that is how **The Perfect Petalia**, came to be.

Tali is the only short, red, multi-petaled petalia among tall, less full purple petalias and she hates it. By following her journey Tali learns that being different is good and she learns to accept herself as she is. "We are all different and special, it is true. People will love you, just because you are you." Marlee's father, Ken Soroka, arranged for the self-publishing of both Marlee's and Lil's books.

This book is available at [www.penelopeparkpublishing.com](http://www.penelopeparkpublishing.com) or e-mail [penelope.park.books@gmail.com](mailto:penelope.park.books@gmail.com)



Marlee Soroka, supplied photo



Debby Waldman, JAHSENA Archives photo

**Debby Waldman** is a renowned children's book author and free-lance writer. She has always loved to read. When she was little, she read all the time, even when she wasn't supposed to, but fortunately, it led her to become a prolific writer.

She first became a newspaper reporter, for her high school newspaper, then studied journalism at Syracuse University in New York. While in journalism school, she worked for the university newspaper, magazine, and the yearbook.

During the summers, she worked at the *Cape Cod Times* in Hyannis, Massachusetts, starting out as a proofreader and gradually working her way up to covering press conferences at local theatres.

After graduating from Syracuse in 1982, she worked at the *Concord Monitor*, a daily newspaper in New Hampshire, for more than two years, at first covering high school sports, but eventually writing news and feature stories.

From the *Monitor*, she moved on to writing feature and entertainment stories at the *New Haven Register*, in Connecticut.

While in New Haven, she took a writing workshop with a local writer and liked writing short fiction so much she quit her job and went back to school, earning a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing at Cornell University. She then

taught creative writing and journalism at Cornell, Ithaca College, and St. Lawrence University.

In 1992, Debby moved to Canada to marry David Wishart, a professor in biological sciences and computing science at the University of Alberta. She wrote articles for magazines in the United States, including *Publishers Weekly* and *Sports Illustrated for Kids*. Her articles, essays, and reviews have been published in *Glamour*, *People*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Parents*, *American Baby*, *Chatelaine*, *More Canada*, the *National Post*, the *Globe and Mail*, the *Washington Post*, and other publications. She has been a writing coach for Alberta Municipal Affairs and a researcher and commentator on CBC radio. She also writes book reviews and a family/humor column for the *Edmonton Journal*.

In 2005, she became a Canadian citizen. She has a daughter, Elizabeth and a son, Noah.

Her children's books include **WOW: World's Outstanding Women Athletes**, a favorite because it was her first book and she has always been fascinated with athletes.



**A Sack Full of Feathers** is another favorite because she found a folk tale that she related to and turned it into a story that was fun to write and read. Also, she sold the manuscript by herself. The book did better than she ever imagined.

It has received a lot of attention, which has been very gratifying for her.

**Clever Rachel** is a new twist on an old folk tale. The original is about a young woman who solves riddles and winds up marrying either a prince or a wealthy man — depending on the version. Debby got rid of the romance but kept the riddles, as well as adding her own perception and ideas.

She also co-authored **Your Child's Hearing Loss: A Guide for Parents**, with

*Continued on page 10*

## AUTHORS

*Continued from page 9*

Jackson Roush, Ph.D.

Orca will publish two new books by Debby in the fall of 2011: a picture book, **Room Enough for Daisy**, co-written with fellow Edmontonian, Rita Feutl and illustrated by the wonderful Cindy Revell; who illustrated both **A Sack Full of Feathers** and **Clever Rachel**. **Room Enough for Daisy** is based on the folk tale, "It Could Always Be Worse", and puts a new twist on the idea of *tzedakah*, or charity. **Addy's Race**, is a chapter book, for students ages 8 to 11, about a 12-year-old girl with a hearing loss who joins the school running club as a favor to a friend — and in the process discovers what really makes her special.



Myra  
Paperny  
supplied photo

Born in 1932, in Edmonton, **Myra Paperny** is a well-known author of young adult books. She spent her early years in Alberta's capital before moving to Vancouver at the age of 14. She got her degree at the University of British Columbia and then went on to study journalism at Columbia University, in New York. She ended up moving back to Alberta, to Calgary, when she married.

While she was teaching a creative writing course at the University of Calgary, she decided that if she was urging others to write, she should try her hand at it herself.

Her first book was **Wooden People**, which follows the story of a Depression-era boy whose family moves a lot and so he decides to make his own world of



friends with puppets. This book won the Governor General's Award.

**Nightmare Mountain** is a story of a long-awaited wilderness hike that turns into a terrifying nightmare for the young characters, when their concern for a magnificent elk leads them to interfere in the activities of a gang of ruthless poachers.

**Take A Giant Step**, which was short-listed for the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction, takes place in Calgary during World War II. It is the story of a young boy torn between the demands of his musical talent and his desire to be an ordinary boy. Young Bernard (Buzz) Bush is a talented musician, whose parents are dedicated to furthering his career, but life is difficult for a boy who is not allowed to play baseball or hockey lest he injure his hands. While Buzz's mother is in New York, helping her own sick mother, Buzz suffers through being quarantined with scarlet fever and hearing that his beloved, understanding uncle has been reported missing in action. When the strain becomes intolerable, Buzz quarrels with his strict father and runs away from home. This action precipitates a better communication among all the family members that leads to Buzz's acceptance of music as an integral part of his life despite the sacrifices required.

**The Greenies** is an inspiring novel, based on the real-life experiences of those "green" newcomers, a group of over 1,000 orphaned Jewish teens who, with the help of the Canadian Jewish Congress, immigrated to Canada after World War II. Not only was Myra's family directly affected by the war, but as a teenage Vancouverite

in the '40s and '50s, Myra knew and made friends with some real-life "Greenies" like the ones who are the main characters of her young adult novel. She also interviewed many of these war orphans, as part of her research. The term "Greenies" actually comes from a Yiddish word, "greeneh", used to describe someone who is new to a culture, a little mystified by how things work, and a little uncomfortable with the locals' reactions to them.

Here is a synopsis of the book: In 1947, Danny, 17, is the only one in his family to survive Buchenwald Concentration Camp. Lilli, an Auschwitz survivor, has also been orphaned. They are both waiting patiently for a new life in Canada. Dreaming of a place where food doesn't have to be secretly hoarded, where dogs are friendly and people don't treat you like cattle, the two teens—like all teens—just want to fit in. But Canadians turn out to be strange and perplexing people. Haunted by their past, Danny and Lilli fear they will always remain outsiders.

Before (and during) her career writing for young people, Myra had many other interesting professions, including: lecturer at the University of Calgary, newspaper reporter, book reviewer on CBC Radio, and workshop facilitator in children's literature and creative writing. These days, Myra is a mother of four and grandmother of nine, who lives in Calgary, and is still writing away. Some of her books are now out of print, but can still be found on websites such as [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com).

Another Alberta children's author is historian **Trudy Cowan**, who has been a guest speaker for JAHSENA and worked on the Little Synagogue on the Prairie project. In 1985, Trudy wrote a children's comic book about life in the Jewish quarter of Prague in 1845, entitled "A Glitch in Time," which was produced for the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. Copies are available in the JAHSENA office.

We are blessed to have such talented writers in our midst as part of our Jewish community. We hope they will all continue to write and enchant us with their stories.

## Letters to the Editor

SOME COMMENTS ON EDMONTON  
DELICATESSENS AND ALBERTA FOOD –

Every Sunday morning in the winter of 1953-54 I took the bus from Viking to Edmonton to study for my Bar Mitzvah with Mr. Goelman, the principal of the Edmonton Talmud Torah. Several other boys studied with Goelman at that time, but the only one I recall was Jim Kagan. I had a few open hours before taking the evening bus back to Viking and I often had a meal at Teddy's Lunch. The corned beef at Teddy's was great, but the pastrami was spectacular. This pastrami came from an outfit in Winnipeg called Chicago Kosher Meat Packing. In the 1960s Chicago Kosher got bought out by someone, their recipes changed and the quality of the pastrami deteriorated. At a 1995 family reunion in Winnipeg I commiserated with several Winnipeg relatives about the loss of quality pastrami from Chicago Kosher. Pastrami, whose quality matches that of the Chicago Kosher product of the 1950s, is almost unobtainable today. My son attended graduate school at UCLA and now works on Wall Street so when visiting him I have had opportunity to check out Los Angeles and New York City delicatessens. None of the Los Angeles delis served pastrami that came close in quality to the pastrami I ate at Teddy's. In NYC excellent pastrami, while uncommon, is available at Katz's kosher-style Deli on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and even better pastrami, according to my palate, is sold at Pastrami Queen, a small kosher deli on the Upper East Side.

Pickles – When growing up in Alberta I ate garlic dill cucumber pickles whose wonderful flavor was only found in home-made pickles or I think also at Teddy's. None of the commercial pickles were as tasty as these pickles. The contemporary pickles served at Los Angeles delis and NYC delis don't come close in flavor to the pickles I experienced in Alberta. The best NYC pickles are supposed to be those

made according to a recipe of one Isadore Guss, who emigrated from Poland in 1910. Guss' business descendant is still around and when in NYC last March I traveled to a kosher supermarket in Cedarhurst NY, a suburb of Brooklyn, to purchase some authentic Guss pickles. These pickles, complete with Orthodox Union hechsher, although the best tasting NYC pickles I have found, were still inferior to the pickles I ate in the 1950s in Alberta. Interestingly, the label on the Guss' pickle jar said "product of Canada". Hmmm. The only pickles I have found, that match the quality of pickles I ate in Alberta, are the house-brand pickles sold at Kaplan's Deli in Vancouver. The proprietor told me that his pickles are prepared according to a recipe from his Lithuanian-born grandmother. It's possible that the difference between Vancouver-Kaplan pickles and NYC-Guss pickles is one of those Litvak-Galitzianer culinary differences. If so, my preference reflects my heritage and a Calgary Polack may make the opposite choice.

Honey – Since leaving Edmonton in the 1960s I always felt that the honey I tasted was inferior to the honey I tasted in Alberta. My long-term honey-tasting memory was validated last September, when I was in Edmonton and I purchased at a farmer's market some creamed (spreads easily but doesn't run) honey from Coal Lake Honey Farm, RR2, Gwynne AB T0C 1L0. Former Edmontonians who miss the taste of high quality honey can do what I do and order shipments from Coal Lake Honey Farm.

Hot Dogs – Hot dogs, whose flavor according to my palate, ranks with the best tasting hot dogs in the world, are still available from Viking Meats, Viking AB. Trayfe of course, but if you're willing to make an exception ...

Finally, I recall a short-lived Edmonton deli named Lindys that lasted a few months circa 1960. The gossip was this enterprise failed due to inadequate management; servers feeding their friends free-of-charge, and the like.

– MEL COMISAROW, VANCOUVER

## DONATION CARDS

JAHSENA now has donation cards with historic pictures on them available for purchase. Mark your special simchas by sending a donation to JAHSENA. Contact the office for more details at: 780-489-2809. We have received the following donations:

### SYMPATHY

To Howard & Leah Goldford and family, in memory of Joyce Goldford, z'l, from Debby & Marshall Shoctor.

To Josie Peters and family, in memory of Maurice Peters, z'l from Jini Vogel and Alex Krimberg.

To Ken Wasserman and family in memory of Zelma Wasserman, z'l from Debby and Marshall Shoctor.

To Ken Wasserman and family in memory of Zelma Wasserman, z'l, from Jini Vogel and Alex Krimberg.

To the Owen family in memory of Dr. Claude Owen, z'l, from Jini Vogel and Alex Krimberg.

To Miriam Sheckter & Family in memory of Dr. Jack Miller, z'l, from Jini Vogel and Alex Krimberg.

To Barbara Pollock & Family in memory of Leonard Pollack, z'l, from Jini Vogel and Alex Krimberg.

To Harry Silverman & Family from the Board of JAHSENA.

To Ron Wolch and family in memory of Dr. Ted Shnitka, z'l from David and Florie Axler and the Board of JAHSENA.

### MAZEL TOV

To Dr. Manuel Friedman on his 83rd birthday, from Rhoda, Judith, James, Haromi & Haruna, Jeni and Noah.

### REFUAH SHALEMAH

To Marty Blatt, from the Board of JAHSENA



## If You or Your Jewish Relatives had Property that was Confiscated, Looted or Forcibly Sold During the Holocaust Era, You could be entitled to Participate in Project Heart

The purpose of Project HEART is to help individuals with restitution for property that was confiscated, looted, or forcibly stolen during the era of the Shoah.

The first step in this process is to identify those individuals who lost property during that period and to encourage them to file the Questionnaire. The website contains the information you need to determine if you or someone you know qualifies for participation in Project HEART and whether any confiscated, looted, or forcibly sold property might be eligible for potential restitution. By following the step-by-step instructions, this website will guide you through the steps required to submit the Questionnaire and begin your application process. This website also describes the types and locations of property included and excluded from Project HEART and provides additional information and deadlines.

Project HEART is a nonprofit initiative of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), funded by and in cooperation with the Government of Israel.

The primary focus of Project HEART at this stage is identifying individuals who may have potential claims regarding property. To be eligible, the claimed property must meet ALL of the following criteria:

1. The property was located in countries that were controlled by the Nazi forces or Axis powers at any time during the Holocaust era.
2. The property belonged to Jewish persons as defined by Nazi or Axis racial laws.
3. The property was confiscated, looted, or forcibly sold by the Nazi forces or Axis powers during the Holocaust era.
4. No restitution was received for that property after the Holocaust era.



The ultimate aim of Project HEART is to provide the tools, strategy, and information that will enable the Government of Israel, Project HEART, and its partners to secure a measure of justice for eligible Jewish victims and their heirs—and for the Jewish people.

Project HEART seeks to reach eligible persons, Jewish Holocaust victims and their heirs worldwide, who or whose families owned movable, immovable, or intangible personal property that was confiscated, looted, or forcibly sold in countries governed or occupied by the Nazi forces or Axis powers during the Holocaust era.

### WHAT PROPERTIES ARE ELIGIBLE?

Eligible properties for Project HEART include private properties of all kinds:

1. **IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**, an item of property that cannot be moved without destroying or altering it. This includes items of real estate such as developed land, including any buildings on it, and land without buildings.
2. **MOVABLE PROPERTY**, any property that can be moved from one location to another. This may include art, Judaica, livestock, professional tools, precious metals, precious stones, jewelry, and other movable property.
3. **INTANGIBLE PERSONAL**

**PROPERTY**, personal property that cannot actually be moved, touched, or felt but instead represents something of value. This may include negotiable instruments such as stocks, bonds, insurance policies, savings accounts, registered patents, dowry policies, and other intangible personal property. It may also include negative assets—debts and liabilities owed to the individual—such as outstanding loans and mortgages.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

In order to be eligible to submit the Questionnaire for Project HEART, an individual must fit these criteria:

1. The individual claimant must be a Jewish person who was subject to persecution under Nazi or Axis racial laws during the Holocaust era, OR an heir of such a person.
2. The individual or his/her Jewish relatives must have owned or have a claim to private immovable, movable, or intangible property that was both: (i) located in the countries governed or occupied by Nazi forces and Axis powers, and (ii) confiscated, looted, or forcibly sold during the Holocaust era.
3. No restitution was made for that property after the Holocaust era.

This website describes the procedure for submitting your information and participating in Project HEART. If you are eligible to participate, simply complete and file the Questionnaire found on this website. You may file the Questionnaire electronically via this website, fax it to the number listed in the CONTACT PROJECT HEART section of this website, e-mail it to [english@heartwebsite.org](mailto:english@heartwebsite.org), or mail it by First-Class Mail, postmarked by December 1, 2011, to the address listed in the CONTACT PROJECT HEART section of this website.

**WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE?**

Individuals will not be considered if their property was located in areas including, but not restricted to:

1. Regions and territories governed or controlled by the former Soviet Union prior to August 23, 1939.
2. Regions and territories governed, controlled by, or allied with Imperial Japan.

**QUESTIONNAIRES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY DEC. 1, 2011, TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:**

Project Heart  
Project Administrator  
c/o A.B. DATA, LTD.  
PO BOX 170700

Milwaukee, WI 53217-8091 USA

Project Heart  
Project Administrator  
c/o A.B. DATA, LTD.  
PO BOX 1343

Holon 58112 Israel

Project Heart  
Project Administrator  
c/o A.B. DATA, LTD.  
PO BOX 6179

EMC Building 829C

1931 Zaventem – Brucargo, Belgium

**QUESTIONNAIRES CAN ALSO BE SUBMITTED ONLINE**

E-Mailed to [English@Heartwebsite.Org](mailto:English@Heartwebsite.Org)

Or Faxed To: +1-414-961-2744

Within two to three months from

the receipt of the Questionnaire, the Project Administrator will mail you a postcard confirming receipt and providing a tracking number. Please do not call to inquire about the receipt of the Questionnaire. The confirmation will be mailed as soon as the Questionnaire is processed.

If an individual does not wish to be included in Project HEART, a written request for exclusion must be sent to:

Project Heart  
Project Administrator  
Exclusions  
c/o A.B. DATA, LTD.  
PO BOX 170700

Milwaukee, WI 53217-8091, USA

The request for exclusion may be written on a postcard or as a letter in an envelope. It should be postmarked no later than June 15, 2011. The request for exclusion should set forth a name, address, and a telephone number and should be signed. Requests for exclusion should not be submitted via fax or electronic mail.

If requests for exclusion are submitted in a timely manner, postmarked by June 15, 2011, the Project Administrator will exclude the individuals from Project HEART and they will not be bound by any possible outcome of Project HEART nor will they be entitled to any of the potential benefits of the outcome of Project HEART.

## On Display

### At the JCC...

Currently on display at the JCC you will find an exhibit of vintage Israeli postcards. Collecting vintage postcards has become a hobby for many lately. Also, there is an exhibit on the history of the Hillcrest Country Club, which later became the Edmonton JCC. Another interesting post card exhibit of Western Canada may be found at the S. Bruce Peel Special Collections Library at the University of Alberta. If you would like to donate a book, document or a piece of memorabilia to add to our collection, call 780-489-2809. Please stop by the JCC and view these items on display opposite the office in the glass display case..

### On the Web...

Check out the Archives Society of Alberta Exhibit prepared for Archives Week 2010, titled "Growing Up Albertan", at [www.archivesalberta.org](http://www.archivesalberta.org). You will find five photos from our collection, one of which, a photo of Mel Hurtig leading Junior Congregation at the old Talmud Torah School, is featured in a new 2011 calendar. Also check out the Peter Owen exhibit online at the same website under "Letters from the Trunk." Old issues of our newsletter, Heritage/Yerusha are available on our website, [www.jahsena.ca](http://www.jahsena.ca)

## Thank You To Casino Workers!

The Board and Staff of JAHSENA would like to thank all those who volunteered for our Casino at the Palace Casino, West Edmonton Mall. It is thanks to your hard work and dedication that we are able to continue to preserve the Jewish history of Edmonton and Northern Alberta:

Gary Levine  
Beryl & Mike Narhornick  
Isabel Rodnunsky  
Bernie Dlin  
Sylvia Alpern  
Freda Abugov  
Jim Moses  
Howard Davidow  
Ted Power  
Leon Miller  
Marshall Shoctor  
Gloria Lallouz

Sharon Abbott  
Bernie Adler  
Jerry Antflick  
Mel Wyne  
Phyllis Nurgitz  
Miriam Rabinovitch  
Marty Blatt  
Judy Goldsand  
Irv Marcovitch  
Trudy Katz  
Anita Sky  
Netta Phillet

Gary Segal  
Russ Joseph  
Lesley Jacobson  
Stephanie Hendin  
Debby & Marshall Shoctor  
Jini Vogel  
Michael Paull  
Marcia & Ron Bercov  
Barb Wiseman  
Shirley Goldberg  
Cory Felber

# How Many Jews?

BY ROB NORMAN

I did an informal survey recently asking 20 people, “What percentage of the population in the United States is Jewish?” To my great surprise, the average response was 42%, and this included Jewish and non-Jewish respondents. One of the Jewish respondents said “60%” and another said “50%” and only two of the 20 people provided even close to the right answer.

At first, I questioned my questioning but realized after I repeated the question in various ways that I had asked the question correctly. What does this tell us about Judaism and the Jews of America and the world? Certainly it supports the perception that our population is larger than we might assume. But does this also support the idea that our influence is greater than our numbers would indicate?

“Who is a Jew?” is of importance, and is based on ideas about Jewish personhood and has religious, cultural, genealogical, and personal dimensions. A Jew may be considered a person who is obsessed with God, and might be someone who is moved to repair or improve the world whenever the opportunity arises. Other Jews focus on the binding laws, the traditions, the humanistic values of Judaism, and our relationship with Israel.

I strongly believe that our influence is far greater than our numbers, and we have a persistent sense of achievements and goals in this life. As a Jew, not only does this give us a clue as to our high expectations of ourselves here in the USA, but our demands for Israel.

Think about Israel for a moment. Are we too tough on Israel or should we demand more? It is only 62 years old. Now think about the USA when it was 62 years old—660,000 were killed in the Civil War, 30% of the people were slaves, and the country was 95% agrarian. Of course Israel has room to improve, but in 62 years the country has shown an amazing courage and productivity. If you have read

*Startup Nation*, you get a sense of the magnitude of the young nation’s achievements.

According to recent estimates, the world population of Jewry is 13.2 million, but figures range from 12 to 18 million Jews, including both practicing Jews affiliated with synagogues and the Jewish community, and approximately 4.5 million unaffiliated and secular Jews. In 2007, 41% of the world’s Jews were living in Israel. The United States had 6,489,000 Jews, only 2.2% of the USA population, and 45% of the Jews in the world. Israel’s 5,569,200 Jews represented 75.5% of the country’s population and 42% of the world Jewish population. Next was France at 490,561 Jews, 0.8% of the country’s people, and 4.2% of the world Jewish population, followed by Canada at 393,660 Jews, 1.2% of its population and 3.0% of the world Jewish population. The United Kingdom stats were 350,000, 0.57%, 2.3% and Argentina 280,000, 0.8%, and 2.3%.

What do these statistics mean? Why the gap between perception and reality when it comes to the number of Jews?

I have asked this question of many others, and the response is often about how the prominence and accomplishments of Jews seems to inflate the perception of the number of Jews. Albert Einstein, Time Magazine’s Person of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, is an example of a Jew that has raised the level of Jewish visibility. While on the subject of statistics, at least 181 Jews and people of half- or three-quarters-Jewish ancestry have been awarded the Nobel Prize, and 22% of all individual recipients worldwide between 1901 and 2010 and constituting 36% of all US recipients during the same period were Jewish. Of all organizations awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, 25% were founded principally by Jews or by people of half-Jewish descent. Not bad, considering Jews currently make up approximately 0.2% of the world’s population and 2% of the US population.

Of course, many Jews in national and local environments have also done their share.

What percentage of Jews are doctors or other professionals as compared to the general population and what percentage of doctors and other professionals are Jews? Jews choose to carry a heavy burden of repairing the world—*tikkun olam*—on their shoulders as reflected in the numbers in medicine and the helping professions.

Anti-Semitism in the United States a century ago was a major force for Jews to start up small businesses, banks, newspapers and to get into the helping professions that were historically barred for Jews—to prove that it could be done despite the enormous barriers. Many of us have heard the warped comments by some—“Jews control the stock market, the movie business, the publishing industry, the field of psychiatry”—all dangerous comments that can be used against us by those paranoid enough to believe that because of our perceived large numbers and “money-oriented culture” we have some ultimate control over all these businesses.

We should be proud of our successes but also must be careful in our path as Jews. We all know how hubris can backfire in the delicate balance of the modern world, and how our Torah has taught us how we are always at risk when we live with arrogance. But to think we as Jews have such positive influence in spite of the centuries of anti-semitism and our small population is something that makes me *kvell*, because it shows us how we can meet God halfway in improving the world. As many of our great leaders have said, the proof that we *should* be here—not only be here but thrive and prosper, is at least partially based on the fact that we are still here at all, and not a historic relic in the desert. So many have predicted our downfall for centuries that every new generation is a step closer to the realization of the important role of the Jew in the future of



## Preserving a Legacy with Jewish Community Living Wills

the world.

The percentage of Jews in the U.S. is projected to be slowly shrinking. The count for Jews is based on the core Jewish population relating to Judaism, excluding Jewish persons professing a different religion but including immigrants from the former U.S.S.R., Eastern Europe, Israel, and other areas. Jews make up approximately 2% of the population of the United States, about the same percentage as in 1900, but is lower than the percentage in 1970 (3.2%).

When we look at Judaism and the Jews of America, we need to realize the burden of our influence—the perception of our numbers is far higher than the actual numbers, and I believe that carries a certain moral weight. Each one of our actions takes on a high profile in the eyes of our fellow travelers on this wonderful planet. It is not only how many Jews we are, but what each of us as Jews is doing to increase our positive influence in the world. With elevated perception of our numbers comes great responsibility, and each of us as Jews needs to choose to do the next right thing, over and over, as we live and work and pray.

~

*from the February 2011 Edition of the Jewish Magazine*

### CORRECTIONS

According to Helen Riskin Walker, Dr. Morris Kline was the first Jewish Dentist in Edmonton, her brother, Dr. Sam Riskin was second, and Dr. Shlaine was third. Also, her parents' Deli was at 100th St., three doors north of the Macdonald Hotel, not directly on Jasper Ave.

In Butte, Montana, just 13 congregation members remain at the local Reform synagogue, in a once-vibrant community that boasted more than 900 Jews. In Laredo, Texas, the Conservative synagogue serves only 40 families, less than half of its congregation from just one generation ago. And in Sumter, S.C., the Jewish population has declined to around 35 people, from more than 200 at its peak.

Despite their dwindling Jewish populations, these small American towns can rest assured their cultural identities will not disappear with their last Jewish resident, thanks to a unique preservation program called the Jewish Community Legacy Project (JCLP).

The program, which is supported by The Jewish Federations of North America, was launched in 2009 by David Sarnat, a longtime Jewish community professional with more than 40 years of service in the Federation movement. "People worked very hard to maintain some semblance of Jewish life in communities that were, in many ways, forgotten by national Jewish structures," Sarnat explained. "Now that these Jewish communities are drying up, we want to leave a legacy that perpetuates what they stood for. But it takes a planned approach to wind them down."

JCLP enables small Jewish communities with declining populations to plan for the future by creating a "Communal Living Will." Much like a personal living will, the document addresses concerns and prepares for eventualities in small Jewish communities where aging populations and changing demographics have significantly reduced the number of Jews. Strategies for Communal Living Wills vary by locale, but include considerations like cemetery maintenance, disposition of real estate, placement of religious and historic artifacts, and documentation of individual and group histories.

In addition, the program can help establish formal relationships with agencies, Federations, Jewish historical associations or denominational bodies. In Sumter, JCLP facilitated an agreement with the Charleston Jewish Federation for maintenance of a cemetery associated with Sumter's Reform congregation, Temple Sinai, and designated a formal committee to plan for the synagogue's future.

Roger Ackerman, chairman of the Temple Sinai planning committee, acknowledged there will be a time when it's "no longer be feasible to operate our temple. With the expertise of the Jewish Community Legacy Project, we will have in place an outstanding plan that will perpetuate our congregation longer than might otherwise have been possible."

The program, which is funded by The Marcus Foundation and administered by the William Breman Jewish Heritage & Holocaust Museum, and whose partners include The Jewish Federations of North America and the National Museum of American Jewish History, currently serves about a dozen communities, from Martinsville, Va. to Kokomo, Ind. But Sarnat estimates there could be 100 to 150 U.S. communities that could use JCLP's assistance.

He points to one Northeastern town, which he declined to name, whose Jewish community could have avoided its early demise with aid from JCLP. Before JCLP could step in, community leaders sold its temple for just \$1,000, and its Torah scrolls – worth \$50,000 to \$70,000 – for just \$5,000. More than \$70,000 is needed to preserve the town's Jewish cemetery, but just \$55,000 remains in a dedicated bank account.

"Communities like this need a plan," said Sarnat. "Federations and other organizations must let these communities know about resources available before it's too late."

## JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

*These items have recently found their way into the archives, and are available for research purposes:*

2 photos of her parent's wedding, donated by Miriam Rabinovitch.

20 cm. text relating to the Beth Israel Synagogue, donated by Howard and Esther Starkman.

20 cm. text including minutes of the B'nai Brith Menorah Curling Club, 1959-1994, donated by David Levine.

Voices of Resilience, edited by Svetlana Shklarov, published by Jewish Family Service Calgary, 2010. Donated by Jewish Family Service Calgary.

Student Council of McCauley School, circa 1945, donated by Mel Wyne.

20 cm. text, and other items donated by Hanna Pollack.

4 photos of the Riskin family donated by Helen Riskin Walker of Calgary.

1 DVD of the Talmud Torah Theatre Arts show, March 2011, Gr. 4,5,6 & 8, donated by Natalie Soroka.

1 DVD of the Jewish Senior's Drop-in-Centre Purim Celebration, March 14, 2011, donated by Hal Simons.

1, photo, 5 bound volumes and 1 set of facsimile prints of illuminated Hebrew manuscripts from the collection of the Jewish National and University Library, Jerusalem, 1970, donated by Jack & Marilyn Cohen.

"The Dead Horse Investigation: Forensic Photo Analysis for Everyone," by Colleen Fitzpatrick. Purchase.

"The Last Best West: Glimpses of the Prairie Provinces from the Golden Age of Postcards," By Ken Tingley, introduction by Merrill Distad. Bruce Peel Special Collections Library, University of Alberta, 2011. Gift of Dr. Merrill Distad.

"Both Sides of the Wire: The Fredericton Internment Camp," Vols. I & II, by Ted Jones. New Ireland Press, 1988.

Eulogies of Marco and Amelia Silverman, donated by Tova Wolinsky.

1,500 photos from the Jewish Senior's Drop-In Centre.

*The Jewish Archives & Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta is always looking for new donations. If you have any personal papers, photographs, negatives, books, audio-visual recordings or other items relating to the history of the Jewish community of Edmonton and Northern Alberta that you would like preserved for generations to come, please contact our office at (780) 489-2809.*

**JAHSENA** would like to welcome the following new members:

Mrs. June Winfield, Richmond, B.C.,  
Josh Moser, Edmonton, AB, Daniella Berechit-Drisdell, Edmonton, AB,  
Mike & Stephanie Hendin, Edmonton, AB, Gordon & Darlene Bushewsky, Edmonton, AB, Linda Rabinovitch, Edmonton, AB

## Help Us Preserve Our Past for the Future!

**I (we) would like to become part of the continuing quest into our historical past by joining the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta in the category marked. A charitable receipt will be issued. Membership for other than individuals includes spouses. Membership includes an annual subscription to Heritage/ Yerusha, the Society's newsletter, published 3 times a year.**

**Enclosed is my cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Payable to the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (JAHSENA).**

- Patron \$100  
 Benefactor \$50  
 Donor \$36  
 Individual \$18  
 I am interested in serving as a volunteer.  
 I have historical material that I would like to donate.  
 Please call me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/MC Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please clip out and return to:  
JAHSENA 7200-156 St. Edmonton, Alberta T5R 1X3**