

ירשה

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# HERITAGE

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

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**Hold the date:  
Sunday,  
March 18th  
Eva Olsson  
Holocaust  
Survivor Talk**

## The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Edmonton Talmud Torah.

*TALMUD TORAH CELEBRATES ITS 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY,  
MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2012*



**Photos of the  
first, second and  
third Talmud  
Torah Schools**

See article pg. 4



From the Archivist's Desk...,

by DEBBY SHOCTOR

Winter, 2011

## Archivist's Report, AGM 2011

It's been another busy year at the Archives, and I just want to highlight a few things that have been happening.

As usual, we published three newsletters this year, and they are getting longer and longer! The average now is 16 pages, not 12. There are just so many good stories out there! And the good news is I have had to write very few of the articles myself! This year, we had an excellent series from Paula Kirman on Edmonton Jews in the Media: Radio, Television and Film. This follows her earlier article on Jewish Journalists. The last installment will be out in January. We also had a wonderful article from Lawrence Herzog on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Beth Shalom, and it came out just in time to celebrate. Our own Board Member, Caroline Ullman, has become a regular columnist, writing about her genealogical adventures, and her column was even picked up by Shem Tov, the journal of the Toronto Jewish Genealogical Society! We have also had great response from casual contributors, including Ruth Nolan, Henry Goldberg and Dr. Eric Schloss, whose next article will appear in this issue. We have articles coming in from Leah Goldford, Aaron Oshry, Esther Starkman and George Goldsand as well. This is becoming a real community forum.

Last year's Spring program saw Helen Waldstein Wilkes of Vancouver come to speak about her book, "Letters from the Lost," a story of discovering her family's ties to the Holocaust. She was jointly sponsored by us and the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, and spoke to the annual Holocaust Symposium for Grade 12 students while she was here. Audrey's books came to set up a table to sell her books, and she appeared there for a signing as well. After she left, her book was voted to become the Alberta Reader's Choice Book Award winner. Thanks to all of you who voted for her. If you want to read this



Expedition group: Debby Shoctor, Michael Dawe, Jim Vincent, Stephen Vincent, Mr. Lawrence. Marcus photo.

excellent book, I have a copy in the Archives, or they are still available from Audrey's. On another publishing note, local authors (who you can read about in another excellent Heritage article) David Mannes and Debby Waldman have also recently published books, as has Stacy Schiff, a part-time Edmontonian and JAHSENA member.

I finished my term on the Edmonton Heritage Council this year, and it was a very interesting experience. Historians, Archivists and others from across the City came together to form this organization, which advocates for heritage and culture in our City. It appointed the first Historian Laureate of the City of Edmonton, Ken Tingley, and has begun work on creating a City of Edmonton Museum, which will most likely be housed on the old Royal Alberta Museum site, when it moves to its new building downtown. In addition, they publish a regular newsletter, have a website, hold conferences and have instituted a grant program for cultural organizations. To subscribe, go to the Edmonton Heritage Council Website: [www.edmontonheritagecouncil.org](http://www.edmontonheritagecouncil.org), or join their Facebook page. One of the more interesting projects they are working on is a

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# ירשה HERITAGE

The Journal of the Jewish  
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## Michael Paull Embarks on Epic Ethiopian Adventure

Michael was born in Edmonton 55 years ago, and still lives one block away from where he grew up. Both his parents were born 82 years ago, in Edmonton and still live there. As a matter of fact his brother, sister, aunts, uncles and cousins all seem to live in Edmonton still, so what is Michael Paull thinking?

*Michael is leaving on a 12,000 kilometer, 120-day, bicycle adventure that will be taking him through 10 African nations on his quest to ride from the North of Africa to the South of Africa.*

Leaving January 8<sup>th</sup> 2012, he will start his long adventure in Cairo, riding through the 45 plus degree temperatures of the desert down through Sudan across the 18,000 meter eleva-

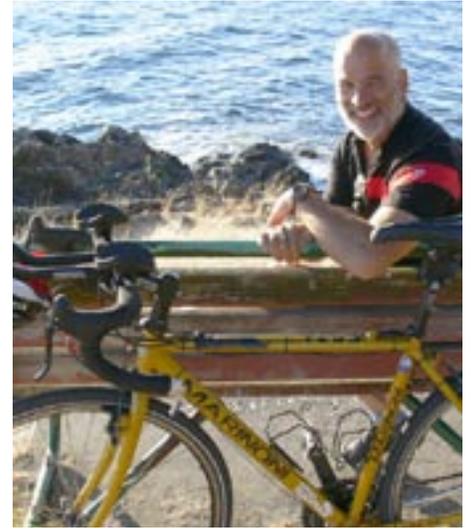


Michael Paull in Ethiopia – supplied photo

tion change of Ethiopia. Riding may not be the hardest part of the adventure as he sets up his own tent each night while the wild animals of Kenya and Tanzania will be out there. He will be flying home from Cape Town the day before the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Talmud Torah in May.

As much as this will be quite an adventure, Michael is not doing this without a cause. In January of 2011 he went to Ethiopia and did research into helping out Ethiopian villages get fresh, clean water piped right into their village. “The obvious reason for helping out is that clean drinking water should be the basic right of every person in this world,” says Michael. The extras come in with washing their food, cleaning their hands, growing their own food, and now the girls who normally fetch the water can get educated instead.

Michael won't be alone on his ride as he will be riding with 43 other riders from 15 different countries. “We will all meet each other the day before the ride and hopefully we will like each other.” Everyone has a choice if they want to ride for charity or not and as Michael says “I couldn't pass up this opportunity to show people how they can help the ones that don't have the basics”.



Michael Paull – supplied photo

There is a website that has been created: [www.H2OPIA.ca](http://www.H2OPIA.ca) so you can follow along with his adventure.

*Michael Paull is a long-time JAHSENA member. In the insurance business, where his father worked for 45 years, his mother was a former City Councillor. Michael is married to Colleen and they have three children: Alex, Samara and Dena.*

## The Far Side of the Sky: A novel of love and death in Shanghai, by Daniel Kalla

HARPER COLLINS, 2011.

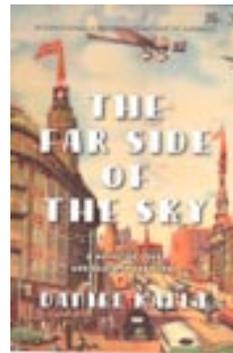
REVIEWED BY DANIELLA DRISDELL

*The Far Side of the Sky* is an ambitious novel. It is a love story, a historical novel and a political thriller to boot. It tells the story of Dr. Franz Adler, a Jewish widower in Vienna, a surgeon caught in the aftermath of Kristallnacht. His clinic is looted and gutted, his brother lynched and left hanging on a lamp post. Franz must find a way out of Austria before it's too late for his mildly handicapped daughter and his newly widowed sister-in-law. In one of his many efforts to obtain exit visas he has a chilling meeting with Eichmann. Rejected by all the embassies, Shanghai becomes

their only choice. They embark on a luxury cruise to China. A stark contrast to the life they leave behind and the one they are going to.

The Adler family adapts to their new life, Franz finds hospital work and we glimpse Jewish life in Shanghai. The community strains with the influx of so many Jewish refugees. There is illness and epidemics and many surgeries. This is where the author, Daniel Kalla, shines. He is an emergency room doctor in Vancouver, B.C. and his descriptions of various procedures had me grinding my teeth. Gruesome but fascinating; he writes about the Whipple procedure, the removal of a pancreatic tumor that Steve Jobs actually underwent. There is also love and romance as Franz falls for Sunny, a bi-racial nurse and his sister-in-law also finds a new life and love.

Tensions erupt with the occupation



of the city by the Japanese. Eichmann comes to Shanghai pressing his allies to hand over the Jews of the city. Franz is torn between his new found love and the safety of his family as he tries to evade the Nazis' global reach.

*The Far Side of the Sky* has a lot going for it and I would recommend it on many counts. It is fast-paced, smart and very interesting. Though the story held my attention I found the characters wooden, sometimes stereotyped and hard to connect with. There is the hooker with the heart of gold, the sympathetic enemy, the power-hungry boss. Even Franz, our hero, was too self-sacrificing and ethical. I wanted to yell “Ask Sunny out already!” While the story did not draw me in emotionally, the medical details and this little-known history of the Jewish refugees of Shanghai, will stay with me long after the characters fade into memory.

# The Edmonton Talmud Torah

## Edmonton's Jewish Day School turns 100

By DEBBY SHOCTOR

The Edmonton Hebrew Association, now known as the Beth Israel Synagogue, was formed on August 12, 1906 with the objective of providing Edmonton's small but burgeoning Jewish Community with the institutions and personnel necessary for maintaining a traditional Jewish way of life. The construction of Edmonton's first synagogue, the Beth Israel, began on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1911 on a lot donated by William "Boss" Diamond, Edmonton's second Jewish resident, who had moved to Alberta from Vilna, Lithuania to join his brother, Jacob, Alberta's first Jewish resident, in Calgary in 1892.

The Talmud Torah School was formally organized in December of 1912, upon completion of the Synagogue building at 95<sup>th</sup> St. and Rowland Road. They began after-school religious classes in the basement of the Beth Israel Synagogue, with its first principal, Aaron Wershof, a Lithuanian-born graduate of Slobodka Yeshiva. By 1915, there were 52 children enrolled in afternoon classes at the Talmud Torah. In the early 1920s, Eli Gorelick and Baruch Katznelson, were recruited to the teaching staff. In 1923, Leo Pekarsky a young man from Poland, arrived in town and was hired to teach at the school, while he finished his education at the University of Alberta. In 1925, due to overcrowding and a desire to have students attend Talmud Torah full time, construction began on a Talmud Torah School Building on 103 Street south of Jasper Ave. The



Laying of the cornerstone at the First Talmud Torah Building, 1926. JAHSENA Archives photo.

school opened in 1927 and graduated its first class of five students in 1928, under the directorship of Moshe Goelman. He and his wife Kayla taught at the school for 28 years. A Mother's Auxiliary was formed in 1927. This group would organize the school lunch and taxi program, collected tuition fees, provided supplies and equipment, and raised funds, aided by Hadassah and the National Council of Jewish Women. In 1928, the school graduated its first five teenagers, who had completed the full, seven-year course of study.

In 1933, Talmud Torah began Hebrew Day School for grades 1 and 2. It was modeled on the first Hebrew day school in Poland, which had been established in Goniondz during the German occupation of 1915 under the direction of Leo Pekarsky's teacher, Moshe Levin. During the 1930s, there was also a Yiddish day school in Edmonton, the Peretz Shul, which offered competing education in Yiddish. However, by the end of the decade, it had folded. From the 1930s onward, the programs at Talmud Torah

were supported by the fundraising efforts of the Magen David Bridge Club, a group of mothers, grandmothers and others, who contributed their weekly winnings to supporting the school program. The half-day English curriculum at Talmud Torah followed provincial standards while the Hebrew curriculum freed students from after-school cheder classes. After Mr. Goelman left for Israel, Leo Pekarsky took over as Principal. He in turn persuaded Moshe Yedlin and his wife Tova to come to Edmonton in 1951. An earnest and scholarly teacher, Yedlin held a degree in history and philosophy from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, served in the Haganah and had taught in Montreal and Regina before coming to Edmonton. He continued to teach Hebrew language and literature as well as Jewish history and culture to Talmud Torah children for three decades.

In 1953, a larger school building was opened at 133 St. and 106 Ave., which helped to accommodate all the post-war

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

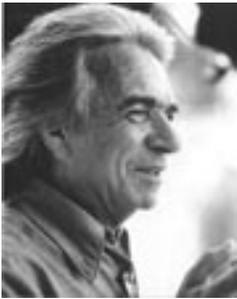
## PART THREE: FILM

By PAULA E. KIRMAN

The final installment about people from the local Jewish community in broadcast media focuses on those who have worked in the film industry.

### ARTHUR HILLER

Arthur Hiller was born in Edmonton on November 22, 1923. He attended Victoria High School along with Leslie Neilson and Joe Shoctor. After serving in World War II, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from University College, University of Toronto in 1947, then was granted a Master of Arts degree in psychology in 1950.



Hiller got started in show business in the 1950s in Toronto where he worked for the CBC as a television director, then went on to a career in Hollywood films. He has been nominated for and received numerous awards from film festivals and professional associations, including being nominated for an Oscar for Best Director in 1971 for *Love Story*. He served as President of the Directors Guild of America from 1989 to 1993 and as President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences from 1993 to 1997.

In 2002, Hiller received a star on Canada's Walk of Fame in Toronto and in 2006 he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. Married since 1948 to his wife Gwen Pechet, Hiller has two children and two grandchildren.

### REEVAN DOLGOY

Reevan Dolgoy was born in Edmonton in 1942. His parents were Dr. Max and Raye Spevakow Dolgoy. The oldest of three boys (his brothers are Len and Mark), he attended the University of Alberta, earning a doctorate in



Sociology. Career-wise, he became an independent filmmaker and professional photographer. He visited the Montefiore colony near Sibbald, Alberta in the mid-'70s, which was a Jewish settlement. He photographed the area and interviewed the remaining residents, making 22 oral history tapes now in the Provincial Archives. He also went to Los Angeles at a later date to interview other residents who were living there.

Dolgoy's doctorate was research on the Fafafini of Samoa (a "third gender" in Samoan society – men who are raised as women), and he moved to American Samoa later in his life, marrying his wife Rasella Tufue in 2004. In the local Jewish community, he is probably best known for his research and writing for the documentary *From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered* (2004) for Jahsena. Dolgoy died in May of 2006.

### JIM RODNUNSKY

Rodnunsky developed the Cablecam, a camera device that is mounted on a rope and operated by remote control, allowing it to provide overhead and rapid-moving shots, particularly for televised sports and in films like *Hook*, *True Lies*, and *Con Air*. He received three Oscars for his Cablecam work, most recently Scientific and Engineering Awards at the ceremony held on February 12, 2011.

Born James Lewis Rodnunsky on July 18, 1956 in Edmonton, he was a professional freestyle skier and a film editor in television. His father, Albert, founded the Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra and was a concert pianist. The Rodnunskys moved to California when Jim was a teen, completing grade ten at Ross Sheppard High School. He graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, in political science and economics.

He married Lisa Cooperstein in 1996. The couple had three children: son Daniel and daughters Tatiana and Alexandra. Rodnunsky died from brain cancer on June 10, 2011. He is also survived by two brothers in California, Serge and Pierre.

### SERGE RODNUNSKY

One of the brothers of the late Jim Rodnunsky, Serge is a filmmaker, actor, and dancer. He has choreographed a number of films and television shows and appeared in

the musical *Cats* and worked in the American Ballet Theatre with such notable dancers as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Agnes De Mille, and George Balanchine. He was also a regular on the television series *Fame*.

Rodnunsky made the move to feature films and has written, shot, edited, produced, and directed almost 50 of them, working with numerous Academy Award winners and nominees.



### JOSH MILLER

Josh Miller, son of the late Justice Tevie and Arliss Miller, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta in 1977.

He owns Edmonton-based Panacea Entertainment, which is responsible for the television series *Anash* and the film *Freezer Burn: The Invasion of Laxdale* starring Tom Green and Crispin Glover.

Miller has been working in film since he graduated from film school in 1981. His particular areas of focus are feature films, television series, and documentary programs. "I always liked the idea of telling stories and the visual media was a great way for one's work to be seen by a wide audience," says Miller.

He lists the professional accomplishment of which he is most proud as receiving the Alex Barris Award from the Writers Guild of Canada in 2006 "in recognition of my efforts to mentor emerging writers."

Miller is also very involved with the local Jewish community. "I currently sit on the board of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton and serve as Chair of the Edmonton Jewish Film Festival committee," he says. "As a kid, I headed the local USY chapter and of course attended Talmud Torah and Camp BB Riback."



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# Jews in Edmonton of South African Origin

BY AARON OSHRY

The Continent of Africa is large, extending from Cairo, Egypt in the North to Cape Town, South Africa in the South, a distance in excess of 10,000 kilometers. South Africa is a small country located at the tip of the African Continent, famous for its diamond and gold mines, wines, mineral wealth, climate and political struggles. It has a population of approximately 55 million, consisting mostly of blacks, but includes all other races.

Jews have lived in South Africa since the first Portuguese Jewish settlers arrived in 1652 in Cape Town. They were non-professing Jews, since at that time there was a restriction against the immigration of non-Christians.

Religious freedom was granted by the Dutch in 1803 and the first South African Jewish Congregation was founded in 1841 in Cape Town. Eight years later, the first synagogue was established there and it stands to this day.

The number of Jews in South Africa remained fairly small until the late 1800s. In the early 1800s, Jewish immigrants from Germany and Holland arrived and traveled into the hinterland from Cape Town, much like the movement of the settlers in the United States to California and the West.

The discovery of diamonds in 1867 in Kimberly, attracted Jewish entrepreneurs and businessmen from all over the world. They immediately became involved in the diamond and precious stones industry, and many moved north from Cape Town to Johannesburg. Johannesburg is inland, about 1,500 kilometers north of Cape Town. Famous Jewish South African entrepreneurs were Barney Barnato and Sammy Marks and Ernest Oppenheimer. Barnato founded the De Beers Consolidated Mines. Marks



Barney Barnato, public domain photo.

became involved in diamond trading and mining. Ernest Oppenheimer was involved in Gold and diamonds, and wrested control of De Beers from Cecil Rhodes. He was born Jewish but later converted to Christianity. He had a compound of about 16 acres right in the middle of Johannesburg. In the late 1800s, there were about 4,000 Jews in South Africa, most of whom had been assimilated or had moved from Cape Town to Johannesburg.

In the late 1890s and early 1900s, the Jewish population swelled to 40,000 mostly because of Yiddish-speaking immigrants from Lithuania who fled Europe due to political persecution and pogroms. South Africa became known as a Lithuanian colony. Many immigrants started out as peddlers and eventually became businessmen and shopkeepers. They were extremely Zionistic with a love of what would become Israel. South African Jewry remains strongly Zionistic to this day.

Following the mining boom in the late 1800s, Jews became involved in industrialization including food processing, clothing, textile and furniture manufacturing. It also included insurance, hotel management, advertising, entertainment, creation of supermarkets, department stores and discount

store chains. Many became affluent and successful and respected professionals including doctors, lawyers, accountants, engineers and dentists. In 1912 the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (similar to the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, but national in scope) was created and it continues to exist and is active.

Between 1920 and 1930 approximately 20,000 Jewish immigrants arrived in South Africa, but by 1930 restrictions were imposed. This influx of Jews later included those from Nazi Germany. At that time, almost all of the synagogues were Orthodox. There never was a Conservative movement. The Reform movement however, came into existence in the early 1930s as a result of the mass immigration of German Jews.

In 1948 there was an enormous change in the political situation as the National Party was elected. The National Party had as most of its adherents "Afrikaners," substantial numbers of whom had been involved in and sympathetic to Nazi Germany and pro-Nazi organizations such as the "Ossewabrandwag" and the "Greyshirts".

Fairly quickly after being elected into power, the National Party passed apartheid/racial legislation including the following:

Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act (1949), which prohibited marriage between different races;

Immorality Act (1950), which prohibited sexual intercourse with a person of a different race and made that a criminal offence;

Population Registration Act (1950), which registered every person as a member of a particular racial group;

Group Areas Act (1950), which required different racial groups to reside in their own racially divided areas;

The Suppression of Communism Act (1950), which banned the South African Communist Party, allowed for arrest and detention without trial, and effectively turned the country into a police state.

Many Jews both individually and in organizations, but of course not all of them, supported an Anti-Apartheid Movement. In 1956 there was a high profile "political" trial which was known as The Treason Trial, in which a large number of people were charged with having been treasonous. Fourteen of the 23 whites involved were



Sammy Marks, public domain photo.

Jewish. All five whites of the 17 members of the African National Congress (which now is the political party, which has the majority in parliament in South Africa), were arrested for anti-apartheid activities in 1963.

Nelson Mandela, the first black president of South Africa, was a lawyer, and served his articles at a time when it was highly unusual to employ non-white professionals, with Jewish solicitor Lazer Sidelsky. Mandela writes about that in his book "The Road to Freedom". Mandela said, "I have found Jews to be more broad-minded than most Whites on issues of race and politics, perhaps because they themselves have historically been victims of prejudice." Mandela's defence lawyer, Issie Maisels, was Jewish. Jewish lawyers represented many of the accused who were charged under the oppressive legislation mentioned above. For example a Jewish defendant who was charged under the *Suppression of Communism Act*, Rowley Arenstein, was represented by Jewish lawyers.

Children of white Jewish parents were sent by them to live and study abroad and remained in their host countries, and their parents followed subsequently. Their

parents were concerned about the future and feared a racial civil war.

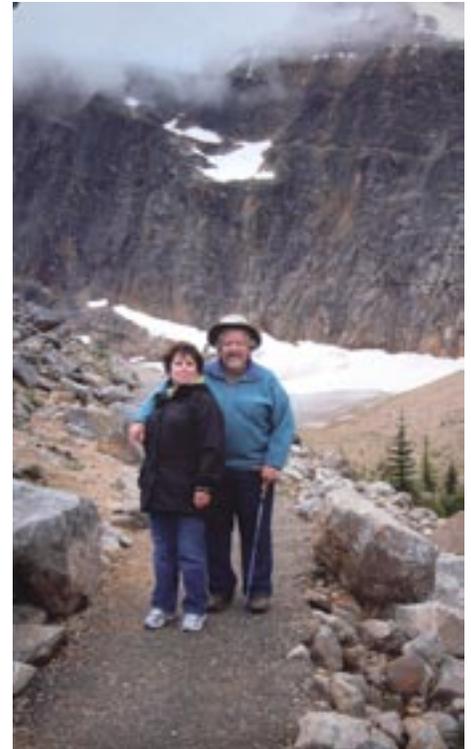
The number of Jews in South Africa reached a peak of approximately 130,000, and presently that has been reduced to approximately 75,000, consisting of 50,000 in Johannesburg, 17,000 in Cape Town, 3,000 in Pretoria, and the remainder elsewhere. Almost all Jews have involvement in synagogues; 80% in Orthodox synagogues and 20% in Reform synagogues. (At one point there were in excess of 40 synagogues in Johannesburg.) Nearly 80% of Jewish children were and are enrolled in Jewish day schools (of which there are many) which run from kindergarten to High School.

Jewish organizations included the Jewish Board of Deputies, Jewish Guild, Jewish Dramatic Society, and numerous other organizations. Large institutions, such as Arcadia, an orphanage for Jewish children (yes there were Jewish orphans); Sandringham Gardens, which housed several thousand Jewish seniors and which had on site a full-time doctor and Rabbi; and Our Parents Home, a smaller Jewish seniors home which originally catered to German Jews.

South Africa was home to many famous Jewish personalities. For example, Harry Schwarz was South Africa's first Jewish Ambassador to the United States. Helen



Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, DeBeers photo, public domain.



Aaron and Jean Oshry – supplied photo.

Suzman was the only woman in Parliament for many years. Barney Barnato, Sammy Marks and Sir Ernest Oppenheim have already been mentioned. Phillip V. Tobias is an international anthropologist.

*Why then did Jews leave South Africa and how did some of them come to be in Edmonton, the opposite site of the globe?*

In the 1970s, events transpired which caused many Jewish South Africans to leave the country. They immigrated to Israel, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. In South Africa they had lived in luxury, more often than not, in large homes with swimming pools, in an idyllic climate, usually with several servants. They had status, money, jobs, family, lifelong friends, and a network of contacts with banks, professionals, store keepers and others with whom one comes into contact on a daily basis.

However, fear and violence became a way of life. People walked around with revolvers, "panic buttons" to push in case of emergency, keys to lock everything, special gadgets to lock parked vehicles, car doors were constantly locked, there was a fear of driving at night, and an absolute fear of driving in areas

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## JEWES FROM SOUTH AFRICA

*Continued from page 7*

other than where whites resided. Guard dogs in homes, the ownership and carrying of handguns, paranoid fear of blacks, fear for the future, high fences with barbed wire (often electrified) were everywhere. Dealing with police, state security, and petty bureaucracy regarding black servants were, in all these luxurious circumstances, a daily concern of life.

Between 1970 and 1992, more than 40,000 Jews left South Africa for the reasons above. 50% of Jews had a grade 12 education compared to an average of 23% of the white population. 10% of the Jewish community had university degrees compared to less than 4% of the white population. Jews were disproportionately represented in large numbers in commerce and in the professions.

Although economically South Africa was doing well and people were living in these luxurious circumstances, South Africans and many Jews began to leave in order to create a better life for themselves, their children, and grandchildren. They left in anguish and with regret, leaving behind family, life-long friends, homes, and social, professional, business, and other networks. Because of foreign exchange currency restrictions, they were unable to take their money with them and often arrived in a new country with very little in the way of financial resources. They had no credit history so were unable to obtain credit cards or loans from financial institutions.

Families were concerned about the future from a political, social, economic and security point of view. They feared a racial civil war between whites and blacks. Many had been drafted into the military and were extremely unhappy about that.

They moved to far away countries where they had no network, Edmonton being one of them. They did not know nor had they relationships with banks, stores, lawyers, doctors, accountants, dentists, or for that matter, anyone. Many had to retrain, re-educate or write examinations to be able to practice as doctors, lawyers, accountants and dentists. They had to secure jobs from strangers, start at the bottom of the ladder,



Oshry Family: Jean, Karen, Rayna and Friedel – supplied photo.

or start businesses from scratch with little access to money as their assets had been frozen in South Africa.

Usually the husbands quickly started working and wives had to learn to cope without family, friends, and with no servants, to which they had become accustomed. They relied on the advice and help of other South Africans, thereby creating a network where everyone helped each other whenever possible. Although other South Africans helped with apartments, jobs, furniture, kitchen equipment and the like, and with contacts, they essentially had to make their own way.

Jean Oshry, under the auspices of the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, created a furniture bank. South Africans in the City donated furniture, kitchen equipment and anything required by a new immigrant, which was loaned to newcomers without cost when they arrived. Friends (usually who had originally come from South Africa) became family with whom to celebrate life cycle events and with whom to share Pesach, Rosh Hashanah and other holidays. Some Canadian-born people helped, but for years considered them "newcomers".

It took them years to re-establish relationships and it took their wives and children years to create new ones. They were called "newcomers" for years although frequently they were successful, involved in the community and they and their children were doing well. They were well educated, hard-working, and highly motivated.

The following people were the first wave of immigrants in the early 1960s: Gerry & Marion Marks ( he was a Professor of Pharmacology); Arthur and Sheila Savell

(Optometrist); Bernice & Simon Kornell (Internist); Joe & Myra Siegenberg (surgeon); Harold and Doreen Siegenberg (Joe and Harold built the Arcadia condominium building and named it after the South African orphanage where they were raised); Werner Israel, who was a professor of Physics and Mathematics and an expert on black holes; Harold Jacobs (Neurologist); Sylvia Hollow; Dr. Vic and Naomi Amato; Jack & Ruth Miller (Jack was the head of the Department of Radiology and a President of Beth Shalom; Geoffrey and Robin Sperber (a dentist who wrote textbooks on dentistry which were translated into many languages); Hy and Becky Shandling (Hy was a lawyer and Becky was a Principal of Talmud Torah); Drs. Frank and Leone Jackson; Wynne and Betsy Rigal (Wynne was an Orthopedic Surgeon and President of Beth Shalom); Derek Spitz, a lawyer; and Michael Liknaitzsky, a lawyer who infamously embezzled \$8 million in trust money and was sentenced to 6 years in the Bowden Institution.

After the mid-1970s, many more followed, too many to name. Most of them were doctors, accountants, lawyers, professionals and business people. Many soon became successful in their employment, in business and in the professions, especially the many doctors who came. They became chairpersons, presidents, and participants in U.J.A., Beth Israel, Beth Shalom, and The Federation and in almost every Jewish charitable organization in the city. They were and are to be found on almost every Jewish board, charitable organization, and hospital throughout Edmonton. These included Ram and Elaine Romanovsky, accountants who served on the Federation Board and Ram was President of Beth Israel Synagogue; Gillian and Billy Horwitz (Gillian was President of Edmonton Hadassah-WIZO and of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, and a National Vice President of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO); Drs. Phil and Tessa Gordon were active in the community and at the University of Alberta, where he was head of the Department of Clinical Medicine and she was a research scientist in Neuroscience. Jane and Edgar Karstaedt (Jane served as President of the Jewish Senior's Drop-in Centre and was the Executive Director of

the Sexual Assault Centre). We (Jean and Aaron Oshry) were the last of the old timers to arrive, in 1974. I was President of the Board of Camp B'nai Brith, and Jean was a National Vice President of the National Council of Jewish Women and a Senator at the University of Alberta.

How did it come to be that these people came to Edmonton in particular? They came despite the harsh winter as a result of referrals, family, friends, jobs, opportunities and the ability to immigrate to Canada was easier if moving to a smaller center.

I have been asked to make some comments about our personal experience in coming to Edmonton. We came in 1974. We rented a car at the airport, and stayed at Saxony hotel. Jack and Ruth Miller found an apartment for us which we rented until our furniture arrived. It was stuck for nine months in a revolution in Mozambique. I started importing diamonds for a while and then decided to go back to law. I went to see Harry Bloomfield, director of the Beth Shalom, and asked for the names of Jewish lawyers, because I needed articles.

He gave me the names of four or five Jewish lawyers, and I articulated to Witten, Pekarsky and Vogel, a practice of about 30 people. Danny Pekarsky interviewed me, and I was given Tevie Miller's old chair as my own. I later went into practice with David Grossman, and eventually started my own firm, where my daughter Karen is a partner. Sons Clive and Michael own the successful global exchange business, Firma. Jean got involved in all the women's organizations. The kids were eight, six and four and went to Rio Terrace, and attended Sunday school at the Beth Shalom. All the kids had B'nai Mitzvahs and were married here, and our six grandchildren all live here.

When we arrived in July, I phoned the JCC, asking what facilities there were available to newcomers. We were told everything was shut for the summer, to call back in September. The next call we received from the community was from UJA for a donation! The old-time Edmontonians were not very friendly. They referred to us as newcomers for 25 years. We basically relied on the South Africans who were already

established here, like the Sperbers who regularly had 30-40 people for breaking the fast. Two of my brothers followed after, Sol was a lawyer at Witten, and Ronnie was a doctor, who lived in Lake Louise for 24 years.

The South African Jews have slowly been accepted into the community. Many continue to have South African friends because of common interests. Who in Canada knows much about "cricket" or "rugby"? They have made a substantial contribution to the Jewish community in Edmonton, all of its organizations, and to the community at large.



Micheal, Jean, Aaron and Clive Oshry  
– supplied photo

## TALMUD TORAH

*Continued from page 4*

baby-boomer children who now swelled the community. This building was expanded in 1957 and 1963, giving it a second wing and a gymnasium. The Mother's Auxilliary continued to run the first and only kosher lunch program in Canada, as it had since 1933. Jack Chetner, a graduate of the Calgary Talmud Torah, served as Principal during these years, the first Canadian-born principal of a Hebrew day school in Canada. The Talmud Torah Home and School Association was established in January, 1954 with Clara Mintz as founding president.

In 1975, under the leadership of Board President Howard Starkman, Talmud Torah entered into a partnership with Edmonton Public Schools whereby EPS would fund the secular curriculum of the school and Talmud Torah the religious curriculum. In the early 1990s, the school curriculum was expanded to include regular day classes for Junior High students in



Dedication of the First Talmud Torah Building. JAHSENA Archives photo.

grades 7- 9. In 1999, Talmud Torah again moved to a new building on 172 St. in the West End of Edmonton, where it is today.

*The TT100 celebrations will take place on the May long weekend here in Edmonton. Please contact the school or have a look*

*at the TT100 website: [ww.TT100.ca](http://ww.TT100.ca) for more information. Also, please check out our two historical videos on Youtube or on the JAHSENA Facebook Page for more information on Talmud Torah.*

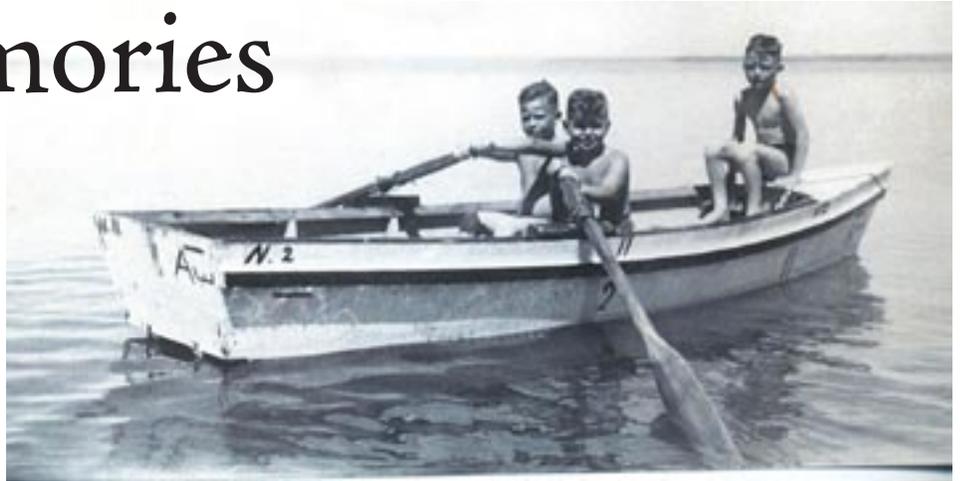
# Early Memories of a Jewish Community

By DR. ERIC SCHLOSS

Growing up in Camrose, Alberta, my earliest memories of the few Jewish families in town included the Kurtzbergs, Their daughter Bertha worked in my dad's store and another daughter, Minnie and her husband Norman Loomer had also lived in Camrose and were close friends of my parents. Their son, Herbie, was the first Jewish child born in Camrose. I still remember the pungent smell of leather in Mr. Kurtzberg's saddlery and shoe repair shop and the mouthwatering taste of his wife's baking when my brother Barry and I were brought over to visit them at their home near the skating rink. We were always announced by: "Here comes Eric and Barrick" in his



Eric Schloss, Barmitzvah 1951. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Sondra Schloss



Eric and Barry Schloss, Sandy Burgess, Pigeon Lake. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Sondra Schloss

Yiddish accent..

Dr. Ernst Billig and his wife Hilda were often at our home to play bridge or canasta with mom and dad. The Billigs were prewar refugees from Germany and he was the town veterinarian. He always impressed me with his knowledge of history and love of animals as he had run a Horse Hospital in Germany in World War One when large numbers of Jews served in the Army.

Hymie and Lil Cohen (Corday) operated a ladies' wear shop near our store on Main Street and he always fascinated all the kids when he was the first to jump on the fire truck as a member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, waving to us with his trusty axe. He eventually retired when he inadvertently chopped a hole in the roof of the drugstore instead of the actual site of the fire in the appliance store next door. Their daughter Carol attended my brother's birthday parties and their younger sons were born in Camrose.

The Goldstein family, Rube and Sadie had children closer to my age including Buzzy, Perky and daughter Lynn. Rube Goldstein managed the Brody's store in Camrose until they left for Edmonton in 1948 when the Warhaft family, Leon and Becky, with their daughters, arrived to take over the management of the business.

The Chatrins, Lil and Ralph (he worked in dad's menswear department) added to our small community and had two children, Phillip and Beryl, who were contemporaries of my sister, Sondra. They later moved to Stettler where Beryl was married. Rabbi

Postone presided over the wedding and the chuppa was taken to Stettler by some of my Edmonton relatives for the historic occasion. Another family, Joe and Ivy Gibbs and their daughter, born at St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose, also lived in town for a few years.

One of the most unforgettable characters was the inimitable manager of the Ladies' wear department in my dad's store, Mrs. Sara Fisher. She lived in the elegant Alice Hotel on Main Street and came to our home for dinner on Sunday nights where we would listen to Fred Allen or Jack Benny on the radio.

Many Jewish Servicemen would come to our house during the war when they were at the Camrose Training Camp, and I would love to try on their military headgear. Sadly, we were told many years later that many never returned from their overseas service. A frequent guest from the camp was Sam Cohen of the Calgary and Winnipeg brothers who later ran the Saan and Metropolitan Stores, and later Sony across Canada. The



Schloss House, Camrose, built in 1927. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Sondra Schloss.



Eric Schloss and friends, first Bar Mitzvah in Beth Shalom Synagogue, 1951. Left to right, back to front: Perky Goldstein, Arnold Bernstein, Johnny Bill, David Lyons, Eric Schloss, Frankie Smith, Michael Goldberg, Susan Schloss, Ronnie Goldberg, David Levine, Sandy Burgess, Keevie Samuels, Barry Schloss, Eli Shtabsky, Gary Delevie, Marilyn Engle, Sheldon Schloss, Paddy Groves, Danny McGill. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Sondra Schloss.

fact that my mother had a beautiful younger sister visiting from Philadelphia was rather a big draw to the young Jewish soldiers, and our home became quite a hub.

I also had several ecumenical experiences as a child in Camrose. My close friend across the street was being raised Catholic by his mother, but his very strict Baptist grandmother down the street did not approve. If we were playing outside early on a Sunday morning, the old lady would grab both of us and drag us to the Baptist church on the next corner where I still recall the hard benches, but we were very loud on the tambourine!! Later in Grade 4, my teacher was very religious, and I had the distinction of winning her Bible Contest to be presented with the Prize; a bookmark with a picture of Jesus!!

We also had close contact with a few other Jewish families in central Alberta mainly via my mother's Hadassah Group including Camrose, Wetaskiwin, Ponoka and Red Deer. The families would frequently meet on a Sunday in the home of one of the members. The women would have their meeting, the men would play cards, and the kids would do their thing...

My Mother was a close friend of Anne Perler, Vera Ragosin, and Bessie Slutker in Wetaskiwin and therefore I knew Molly and Sonny (Zelick) Perler and their cousin Roz

Slutker from an early age. We also would see them in the summers on Mameo Beach at Pigeon Lake and were often at their Cottage and also next door at their Slutker cousins, Blondie and Zeke.

Other Edmonton Jewish Families at Mameo Beach included the Lyons, Rudolphs, Nozicks and Weners, who had neighbouring cottages. I was friendly with David Lyons and also his cousin Esther Rose Newhouse who often visited them at the Lake. We also went over to the Brody Home on the other side of the main pier and would frequently see their son Eugene carefully cycling on the beach road. Another visit was often to the beautiful Charles and

Ida Margolus Cottage on the neighbouring beach of Crystal Springs. The Ostrys, Shulers, Baltzans, and Margoluses were also at the Lake, and that is where I first met Noni Ostry, Judy Shuler and Rona Margolus.

Edmonton was the main focus of our Jewish communal involvement. Mom and Dad (usually with Mrs. Fisher) would frequently drive to Edmonton on Sundays to see the travelers at the Macdonald Hotel who were almost all Jewish men from Winnipeg or Montreal. My lingering impression was that since all of them smoked cigars, that must have something to do with being Jewish (the poor clothes must have suffered). I was also intrigued that many of the men were called Leon.

This was reinforced later when I went to intern in Montreal and my dad sent me to the Samuelson Factory to order a suit. I called back later to find out if it was ready and asked to speak to Leon who had helped me. The reply was, "Do you want Leon, the presser, Leon the cutter, or Leon the tailor?"

In Edmonton, we would invariably visit my Aunt Fanny and Uncle Joe Samuels on Connaught Drive. We also celebrated the High Holidays, meals and Seders at their home. Their relatives would often be there such as Sam and Mary Samuels and their son Keevie, the Weinstains and Riskins. Uncle Joe's aged Mother impressed me as the tiniest adult I had ever seen who only spoke Yiddish. Friends of my aunt and uncle were also often at the house, including the Rabiners, Bloomfields, Wershofs, Saslows, George and Esther Levine, Wisemans,

*Continued on page 12*



Family at Eric Schloss' Bar Mitzvah: Left to right: Becky Schloss, Roy Schloss, Sarah Engle, Joe Samuels, Rose Samuels, Eric Schloss, Ralph Samuels, Fanny Samuels, Barry Schloss, Allan Schloss, Ann Schloss. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Sondra Schloss.

## EARLY MEMORIES

*Continued from page 11*

Wintrobles, and Dr. Ted Aaron. I was also fascinated that my Aunt Fanny's lady friends never seemed to have first names as she would always refer to her friends as "MRS. O Friedman, MRS. Bloomfield, MRS. Cooperman, MRS. Wershof or MRS. O. Davis". We also often went over to Rose and Ralph Samuels' gracious home a few blocks away on 132nd street. The first Jewish wedding I ever attended was as the ring bearer for the Samuels' daughter Sadie at the Macdonald Hotel when she married Joe Sheckter.

My parents were early members of the Beth Shalom Synagogue after their arrival in Edmonton in 1935 with my sister Sondra, in time to attend the Bar Mitzvah's of my cousin Victor Samuels and his cousin Harold Samuels. My brother and I always had to have a new suit for the High Holidays, my mother and sister new outfits and my Dad always had a new fedora for the occasion. The Beth Shalom services were on the upper floor of the Talmud Torah on 103rd street. Erev Rosh Hashanah was always packed and quite a fashion show for the women. The first Rabbi I remember was Rabbi Hurwitz, but my parents always spoke glowingly of the previous Rabbi Eisen who was admired by the Congregation. All the Samuels families were always there, including older brother Jake. Other regular members of the Beth Shalom Congregation at services and in the front rows included the Dowers, Margoluses, Klines, Friedmans, Liebermans, Cristalls, Leibovitzes, Poderskys, Singers, Millers, Baltzans, Weislars, Nozicks, and the Bloomfields. Harry Bloomfield served as Gabbai for countless years and Mrs. Becky Bloomfield led the choir. Mrs. Rose Podersky was the usual pianist when required, and the soloists I remember were Phil Lieberman and Ethel Dunn, who was also the secretary and receptionist at Christie Grants Store for my Uncle Joe and his brother Ralph.

Another voice resonating through the Synagogue was that of Mrs. Lillian Kline, particularly during responsive readings. I found out later that she and my Aunt Fanny had a rivalry over who had provided the most beautiful Paroches (decorative cloth



Ann and Allan Schloss, Dr. Ernst and Hilda Billig at the Schloss house in Camrose.  
JAHSENA Archives, donated by Sondra Schloss.

cover for the Bima) and also the best flower arrangements for the High Holidays. There were family traditions and honours at services and every year David Kline and Harold Samuels would chant haftorahs. My dad and I would also usually walk down to the Beth Israel on 95th Street during the "break" on Yom Kippur and I was in awe of the different atmosphere in the old shul.

To prepare for my Bar Mitzvah in 1951, I would take the bus from Camrose into Edmonton on weekends, starting in the Spring, and took my first Hebrew lessons from a Talmud Torah teacher, Mr. Silverman, who was boarding at the Goldsand home on 116th street. I began to meet other kids who were also preparing for their Bar Mitzvahs, all living in the Oliver area, including Michael Goldberg, David Lyons and Eli Shtabsky. I went to their Bar Mitzvahs at the Beth Israel shul on 95th street, usually by street car which was in the last year of its operation. Following the service and reception we were invariably invited to a movie in the afternoon at the nearby Gem or Dreamland theatres, but if it was more "upper class" we traveled to the Rialto Strand or Empress Theatres downtown. Others I met were Arnold Bernstein, Harry Friedman, Hershel Sorokin (the only Jewish Sea Cadet I ever knew), Eliot Phillipson and Marvin Weisler. I also met Phil Mickelson and renewed acquaintance with Ron Bercov who both lived behind the Goldsteins on 117th street. I knew Ron as "Butch" when his family lived next to us at Pigeon Lake one summer (I hope Ron is not offended by this expose!)

After the summer, I started to learn my Haftorah from Reverend Dorskind (a former chazzan at the Beth Israel) at his southside home on 83rd Avenue close to Old Scona. I would get off the bus from Camrose near Whyte Avenue and walk to his house for the lessons. Rev. Dorskind's nephew, Bernie Adell, whose parents had a grocery store at the north end of the High Level Bridge, was another student preparing for Bar Mitzvah. He later was a Rhodes Scholar at U of A and became Dean of Law at Queens University. After the lesson, I would take the bus or street car across the High Level Bridge, down to my uncle's store on 101st Street next to the King Edward Hotel. My Uncle and his brother Ralph were always around the central counter, Ethel Dunn at the cash register and Mr. Sid Slutsky at his post in the Menswear department. I was also encouraged by Rabbi Dorskind to observe at the Tallis and Tefillin Club organized by Rabbi Postone. Those who had already had Bar Mitzvahs did the davening, including Ed Pakes, Aaron Shtabsky, Howard Starkman, Leo Superstein, Ron Bercov and Danny Pekarsky. Before returning to Camrose, I would often visit with my Aunt Becky and Uncle Roy and their kids Sheldon and Susan who had just moved to Edmonton.

My Bar Mitzvah was the first in the Main Sanctuary of the newly built Beth Shalom Synagogue on Jasper Avenue and 119th street. Rabbi Wolfson was the Rabbi (Rabbi Sacks arrived the next year) and many of our friends from Camrose came for their first experience in a synagogue. I think we went to the Rialto theatre after the ceremony and Kiddish Luncheon. The evening party was in the lower floor Hall, (the main upper area behind the Sanctuary was initially a basketball court.) Joe Sheckter, who had "Dainty Maid Bakery," prepared a cake for the celebration. Most of the gifts were pen and pencil sets, brush and comb sets, books, and the obligatory small shaving kits (I am still not sure why a 13-year-old needed a shaving kit!) Forty years later, while visiting my folks in Camrose, I noticed my mother still had my bottom bureau drawer carefully packed with the gifts. One of my prized presents, a wristwatch, unfortunately was lost several years later at a social function near Camrose. If you know of anyone who

found a watch inscribed: "To Eric on his Bar Mitzvah from Aunt Rose and Uncle Ralph," please contact me.

*In a memoir, it is always interesting to reflect on people who have had a significant influence on your life such as many of the people mentioned above. However, there is one person I would particularly like to recognize and dedicate these writings to her memory. Shortly after my Bar Mitzvah, my Aunt Fanny and Uncle Joe provided the wedding for Helen and Mel Macklin at the Beth Shalom. They had "adopted" Helen, a Holocaust survivor, in 1948 and I spent many hours at their home with the teenage Helen. I was in awe of her courage and bravery to survive her terrible ordeal during the war, including forced death marches and concentration camps, which somehow she summoned the strength to overcome. She always told me that if she had a son she would call him Eric. Mr. Justice Eric Macklin was born the following year!*



Joe Samuels and Helen Macklin March, 1952, donated by Justice Eric Macklin.

## 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 Lillian Green, on the death of her husband, Dr. Leslie Green, from Violet Owen; and from the Board of JAHSENA.

### MAZEL TOV

To Norma Nozick on her 90th Birthday, from Linda Goody.

To Audrey Macklin, on her 50th Birthday, from Eric, Sharon, Arna, Leah, Rachel and Zev Macklin.

To Stephanie Hendin, on assuming the Presidency of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, from the Board of JAHSENA.

### REFUAH SHALEMAH

To Anita Sky, from the Board of JAHSENA.

## JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

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

"Creature Feature," a novel by Cantor David Mannes, 2010, published by iUniverse inc., Bloomington, Indiana.

One Menorah Curling Club pin, donated by David Levine.

A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire; A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland; A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia; by Alexander Beider, published by Avotanynu, 2008.

Three bricks from the abandoned cabin of Rabbi Blank, on the shores of Blank's Lake, near Pine Lake, Alberta.

One green BBYO sweater, circa 1972, donated by Marshall Shoctor.

A gavel, Men's membership paperweight, a photo of Clara Panar and her stove, and 10 cm. of certificates given to Anne and Jack Eaman, donated by Evelyn Eaman.

A tallith and bag, a set of tefillin and a ceremonial belt; five holocaust posters from Lodz, donated by Rachel and Fred Garfunkel. The artifacts were kept concealed by Fred's father during his internment in a concentration camp in Belgium during the war. The posters were kept by Rachel's father during the war in Krakow.

A recording, on vinyl, of Rabbi Sacks singing the Kol Nidre Service in 1955, recorded by CFRN, donated by Jeff Davis.

2 photos, 1 cm text, relating to Moshe Yedlin, donated by Dr. Tova Yedlin.

Two photos of the grave of Alex Podolsky, z'l, donated by Michael Paull.

17 photos of the Schloss family, donated by Sondra Schloss of Vancouver.

3 photos and 1 cm text relating to the Kline family, donated by Leon and Betty Kagna.

16 photos and 10 cm text relating to the Macklin family, donated by Justice Eric Macklin.

*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.*

## NEW MEMBERS:

JAHSENA would like to welcome the following new members:

Jeff Rubin & Gaylene Soifer,  
Edmonton, AB

Yossi Ovics, Edmonton, AB

Barbara Wiseman, Montreal, Quebec

Dr. Tova Yedlin, Edmonton, AB

Andy & Miri Feher, Edmonton, AB.

## ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

*Continued from page 2*

Google map of Heritage sites in the City of Edmonton, which will launch shortly.

In June, I attended the Association of Canadian Archives Conference in Toronto, where Michael Gourlie of the ASA, Ellen Sheinberg of the Ontario Jewish Archives and I presented a research project we had worked on together entitled, "Oddities in the Archives." This presentation examines all of the weird and wonderful things which can be found in Canadian Archives which are not really "archival." This covers everything from curling sweaters to W.O. Mitchell's moustache. Our presentation was actually voted one of the best-liked at the conference, and we were recently asked to do it again at the Provincial Archives of Alberta for Archives Week, in October.

While in Toronto, I also met with members of ACJAM, the Association of Canadian Jewish Archives and Museums, including Janice Rosen from the Canadian Jewish Congress Archives in Montreal, Shannon Hodge, from the Montreal Jewish Public Library and Archives, and Dorion Liebgott from the Beth Tzedec Museum and Archives in Toronto. Janice and Shannon recently collaborated to launch the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network, [cjh.n.ca](http://cjh.n.ca), an online, searchable catalog of their combined collections, which will eventually evolve, we hope, into a union catalogue of all the Jewish Archives and Museums in Canada.

This summer saw our participation in another Doors Open Edmonton, where



Trinity Anglican Church, 1902, Pine Lake, AB. Shoctor photo.

we showed our films, "*From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered*," and "*Bittersweet Memories: The War Years*." I am also trying to get these films shown at the new Capitol Theatre in Fort Edmonton Park, which opened in August. Edmonton Journal Columnist Paula Simons wrote a column suggesting that this is the perfect opportunity to get our foot in the door at the Park, as the Capitol Theatre was built by the Allen brothers, a pair of American Jews who built most of the early movie theatres in Canada, and the Orchestra leader was Abe Fratkin, who was also the first conductor of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. In addition, Kline's Jewelers, which existed

for a long time on the premises of the theatre, has also been reproduced in the Park. First owned by H.B. Kline and then by the Wasserman family, it was a fixture of the early Edmonton Jewish Community.

After attending another interesting International Council of Archives Conference at the University of Alberta this summer, I bit the bullet and decided that JAHSENA needed a Facebook page, as that is the way a lot of Archives are promoting themselves these days. If you look on Facebook, you will see that many Canadian and Jewish Archives have pages on which they post events, information and interesting photos, links and articles. If you are on Facebook, please look for our Page, "Like" it, and follow the links to other interesting Archival pages including the ASA, Wetaskiwin Archives, City of Edmonton Archives, Nova Scotia Archives, etc.

In addition to Facebook, I have also ventured into the land of Youtube, and created two videos for the Talmud Torah 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which will take place this coming May long weekend. I have been working with their committee, specifically Lisa Miller, on a documentary film which will be shown at the Gala Dinner, but former President Andy Feher has been trying to promote the event to potential guests via Youtube videos, and asked me to make one. So we hammered together two videos of the history of the school, put it on Youtube and it has received over 450 hits in three weeks! If you want to check it out, you can either go to YouTube directly, the TT100 website, or our Facebook Page if you want to find it.

We applied for and received a grant of \$7000 from the ASA this year to help digitize our Oral History Collection. This was imperative, as magnetic tape and recorders are now an obsolete technology and it is



Grave of Abraham Blank, Winnipeg



Grave of Judah Blank, Hirsch, Saskatchewan



Lawrence, Dave and Vincent examine the map.



David Marcus examines the map of the Blank's Lake Settlement. Shoctor photo..

essential that we migrate this material to digital form or it will become unreadable. With this grant, we were able to digitize most of our collection, and in the future will record these interviews in MP3 format, so that they can be easily preserved and listened to. We have also received two JFE/UJA surplus grants, one for a Cemetery website, which would give a history of our Cemetery as well as list all the graves, pictures of headstones, obituaries and eulogies in our collection. The other would fund an oral history project for Russian Seniors, at the Drop-in Centre, which Caroline Ullman is spearheading.

The first week of October was Archives Week, which coincided with the launch of another ASA online exhibit which we participated in, "Archives in Living Colour." Five images from our Archives appear in this exhibit, which can be seen at: [www.archivesalberta.org](http://www.archivesalberta.org). We also were lucky enough to have one our colour postcards chosen for inclusion in the new 2012 calendar, some of which are available from the office. It is a street scene of Calgary from the Averbach fonds, hand-tinted in the 1920s. The calendar is sent to all the MPs and MLAs in Alberta, and given away or sold by institutional members. It was launched at a lovely lunch at Rutherford House which Jini and I attended.

Rabbi Bernard Baskin, who spoke to us last year, paid another visit to Edmonton to finalize his donation of books to the University of Alberta Library. I tried to arrange for him to again speak to our community, but his visit happened right at Sukkoth, so this was not possible, but I attended his talk on Antiquarian Book

Collecting at Audrey's book store, along with Wynne Rigal and Leslie Jacobson, and it was most enjoyable. Even at 92, he knows how to capture and inspire an audience. If he returns, I will be sure to try to get him to speak to us again.

The most interesting thing I did this year was to take a trip down to Red Deer with JAHSENA and Chevra Kadisha member David Marcus in search of the lost Jewish colony of Pine Lake. We had known about this colony for some time, and Red Deer Archivist Michael Dawe had written an article on it for Heritage last year. But we had never actually been down there to see what remained of this colony. So on a sunny October day, David and I went down to visit farmer Jim Vincent and his family, who live on the land formerly occupied by these colonists on the shores of Blank's Lake. This lake is actually named after Rabbi Abraham Blank, the leader of the colonists, who, funded by Baron de Hirsch, settled there in 1892. These 70 souls were the first Jewish farm colonists in Alberta. However the conditions were so bad, the winters so harsh and the drought so terrible, that they could not stay long enough to make their homesteading claims. In 1895, they could no longer survive, and disappeared. From subsequent research, I have learned that five families went on to settle at the colony in Hirsch, Saskatchewan, where they remained for many years. Rabbi Blank, however, being elderly, soon moved to Winnipeg, where he is buried. We are continuing to research this story, and plan another trip there in the Spring, to see if we can find the graves of any settlers who did not make it. We would also like to work with Camp BB and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, which owns the land on which Rabbi Blank's former cabin stood, to set up a memorial or interpretive trail, which the campers can visit each year, and learn this tragic story. Michael Dawe has offered to come in March for our Spring Program and speak further on this subject.

I attended an ASA workshop recently on displaying and conserving Archival Materials, which took place at the PAA. It was very interesting and informative, and helped me with the task of curating our latest exhibit. Make sure you come to the JCC



Stephanie Hendin, Jini Vogel and Judy Goldsand at the Herzl opening. Shoctor photo..

before the Winter break to see our Herzl Exhibit, which is on loan from the CZF and lawyer David Matlow of Toronto. David collects Herzl memorabilia and has an outstanding, one-of-a-kind collection, which he has generously leant us for the next month. Herzl, the father of Zionism, has become somewhat of a cult figure, and the amount of books, songs and memorabilia of all kinds, which pay tribute to him, is astounding! We are co-hosting this exhibit with the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, and it includes items from our own collections, and the bust of Herzl from the Edmonton Talmud Torah.

I continue to receive many reference questions of all types, from people looking for their Jewish roots, to those who want to convert to Judaism, find matzah for Passover, or Kosher food for visitors, to those doing documentary films on Farm Colonies, or Downtown Edmonton buildings, researchers for Fort Edmonton Park, and those looking for information on their own families.

That's all for now, but I am sure that next year at the Archives will be just as exciting as this year, so please stop by some time and visit us at the JCC.



Dani Uretsky and Mirim Rabinovitch at the Herzl Exhibit opening. Shoctor photo.

## BROADCAST MEDIA

*Continued from page 5*

Having been in the film industry for over 30 years, Miller is quite down to earth when it comes to describing his greatest productions: "My wife Michele and I have been married 28 years and our three grown children Ben, Sam and Hannah are undoubtedly our greatest productions (and probably the most expensive)!"

**ALAN BLEVISS**

Bleviss is known as both a voice-over actor and President of the Civil War Token Society. He has performed the narration for documentaries, film trailers, and other programming in television, film, and radio. Although he is Canadian, he was credited as the voice of the Democratic Party during the Clinton administration, and for representatives at all levels across the government in the U.S.

Bleviss graduated from the University of Alberta in 1967 and also studied at the National Theatre School in Montreal. He currently serves as President of their alumni association and volunteers on the executive of the Board of Governors as well. In the book *Eat Me* by Kenny Shopsin, Bleviss is credited as the inspiration for the "Edmonton" Tuna Fish Sandwich, at Shopsin's eatery in Manhattan.

**MICHAEL BOBROFF**

Bobroff works as a production executive with Aquila Productions, a company in Edmonton that creates broadcast video productions for its clients, as well as offering other services such as live entertainment productions. Aquila Productions is owned by the Katz Group, where he is also the VP of Marketing.

**AVI FEDERGREEN**

Federgreen is a drama producer who now lives in Toronto. He grew up in Edmonton where many of his family still lives. Federgreen has been involved with the production of dozens of television shows and movies for both television and cinema, including the Gemini-nominated television series *Good Dog* and the award-winning film *One Week* starring Joshua Jackson, which made more than one million dollars at Canadian box offices and a top rental on iTunes and in DVD sales during its first week of release.

His bio on the website for his production company, Federgreen Entertainment, states that



he has one mission: "to make films that affect people." Currently he is in post-production for *Dead Before Dawn*, the first ever Canadian fully-financed feature in 3D. Federgreen also recently started up a Canadian independent film distribution company called Indiecan Entertainment.

**MARK DOLGOY**

Reevan's younger brother, Mark Dolgoy worked as a producer, director, writer, and editor for a number of productions for the CBC, CTV, ACCESS, and National Film Board between the late '60s and early '80s. Dolgoy became interested in film while a student at Simon Fraser University. Due to the recession of the early '80s, he enrolled in law school in 1984 and practices as an attorney.

**ALAN STEIN**

Stein (1948-1994) was an award-winning filmmaker, broadcaster, and musician. Born in Ontario, but a long-time Alberta transplant, he produced and directed the film *Shooting Stars: The Amazing Story of the Edmonton Grads* in 1987, chronicling the history of the women's basketball team. He served as president of the Alberta Motion Picture Industries Association and a founding member of Film West Associates. Stein was also president of the Alberta Union of Students and a member of the Worth Commission on Education. During the last part of his career, Stein went into radio broadcasting with CBC Radio in 1990, hosting the weekday afternoon program *Edmonton PM*. Allan Stein Park in the Riverdale neighbourhood at 10025-87 Street, is named after him.

**SIMON GLASSMAN**

Simon Glassman is a local cartoonist who recently made the venture into film with his first production, entitled *Felt Up*, a series of scenes played out with puppets, but based on real-life stories.

"I've been working as a cartoonist for five years and decided it was worth my time a couple years ago to try a new medium," he says. "When working on comics and storyboards for other people's projects, I was always trying to apply all these different film techniques I'd soaked up from being such a movie nerd into my illustrations. It was more a process of eventually admitting to myself what I wanted to do rather than really deciding on it."

Although he will also be releasing a short (five minutes) thriller in the new year,



Glassman's main profession is still as an illustrator. He is currently illustrating a children's picture book for a local author. For more information about *Felt Up*, visit [www.getfeltup.net](http://www.getfeltup.net). Glassman's website is [www.simonglassman.com](http://www.simonglassman.com).

**JASON MARGOLIS**

Originally from Edmonton, Margolis has made his home in Vancouver for a number of years. He was part of the production company Jump Communications, and is now a supervising producer and writer at Greedy Productions, which runs the series *The Electric Playground*. He is a director, writer, picture and story editor, as well as a film school instructor.

He has collaborated with Edmonton novelist Todd Babiak on screenplays such as *The Great One*, a hockey comedy. Margolis directed and co-wrote *Lucky Stars*, a feature film that screened at several festivals throughout North America, as well as directing numerous award-winning short films. In addition, Margolis has directed many music videos for artists such as Great Lake Swimmers and Andrew W.K. Viewers of MuchMusic may be familiar with the *Nardwuar the Human Serviette* segments (also popular on YouTube) – Margolis shot several of these.

Amongst his teaching credentials, he has taught screenwriting at the Vancouver Film School and editing and directing at The Art Institute of Vancouver.

Other names who should be mentioned here include Lisa Miller (Josh's sister) and Missy Geffen, both of whom run independent production companies. Miller and Geffen were both featured extensively in last issue's piece about people from the local community involved with television.

**Additions:**

As much as we tried, it was just impossible to include everyone in the local community who works in television! Here is one name we missed: **Steve Glassman** is a producer who currently is with CBC Television in Edmonton.

It was also brought to our attention that we neglected to mention Monica Miller of CKUA in the first installment of this series. Miller has been with CKUA since 1977, starting her career as a part-time record librarian leading to producing and hosting the show *How I Hear It* since 2000. The show airs daily on weekdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

