

ירשה

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HERITAGE

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

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Remembering WWII



JAHSENA Archives photo

Joint Memorial Service held in 1946 between the Beth Israel and Beth Shalom Synagogues, honouring those who fought and died in World War II. Pictured are Rabbi Abraham Postone of the Beth Israel Synagogue, Rabbi Jacob Eisen of the Beth Shalom synagogue, and H.A. Friedman. Rabbi Eisen was the first Rabbi of Beth Shalom synagogue, and served as a chaplain in the Canadian Armed Forces during the war.

JAHSENA is presently at work on a documentary about Jewish Edmontonians in World War II and the Israeli War of Independence. If you have any photographs, documents or artefacts which you think may be helpful to us in the making of this film, please contact the office.

AGM

The JAHSENA AGM will be held Sunday, November 12th 7:00 pm at the JCC. Our keynote speaker will be Prof. Daniel Woolf, Dean of Arts and Professor of History at the University of Alberta, who will speak about "Jews and Judaism in 16th and 17th Century England. Everyone is invited.



From the Archivist's Desk...

by DEBBY SHOCTOR

November, 2006

It's been a busy summer here at the archives. I was away for the first part of July on a trip to Central Europe, where we visited many places of historic Jewish interest. We saw Jewish museums and synagogues in Vienna, Budapest, Cracow, Warsaw, Berlin and Prague, as well as visiting Auschwitz. We visited the famous Daniel Liebeskind-designed Jewish museum in Berlin, which was fabulous. My favourite city was actually Cracow, where the old Jewish quarter is still intact, like it is in Prague, but much less crowded with tourists. They actually have a Jewish film and cultural festival there every year which is well-attended. Jewish life is actually returning to Europe, with three new Rabbis just being ordained in Germany last month, the first to be ordained there since 1942.

When I returned to Edmonton, it was just in time for Historic Edmonton Week – JAHSENA participated in this city-wide event for the first time this year. We received six visitors to the Archives during Historic Edmonton Week at the end of July. They were given a tour and shown the film and gave positive feedback.

Recent acquisitions have been received from Sharon

Abbott, who regularly clips the newspapers for me; Thelma Rolingher, former National President of National Council of Jewish Women., who gave an oral history interview to Judy Goldsand; the Shoctor family; Sarah Hardin Spivak of Vancouver; Lil Soroka and the Jewish Senior's Drop-in Centre. Judy Goldsand is interviewing Mildred Ragozin this week, and I expect to get the Talmud Torah minutes soon.

Helen Rosenberg is busily at work arranging and describing the Jewish Federation of Edmonton and Edmonton United Jewish Appeal funds for us, thanks to the \$2500 grant we received this year through the Alberta Historical Research Foundation from the Archives Society of Alberta.

We have only one dozen of our books left, and have therefore decided to stop selling them, and save them for reference, and to give to our own guest speakers. Our AGM is coming up in November, so watch for your invitation to that.

Beth Israel synagogue celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year. Activities have already begun, including a tribute to past presidents, and to past sisterhood presidents, who are listed in this issue. I am on the committee for this,

and am helping them with a display of photographs and artifacts for the synagogue lobby. They recently held a bus tour of historic Jewish sites in Edmonton, including the old Shul on 95th Street and the Jewish Cemetery, which was very successful.

Dan is busily at work on our second film, about Jewish Edmontonians in World War II and the Israeli war of independence. He hopes to have the film finished by June, 2007, and has hired Caroline Ullman as a researcher. A very substantial donation has come in from the estate of Reeve Dolgoy which will enable us to complete the film. Thanks are in order to Reeve's widow, Rasella, his brother, Mark and lawyer Marshall Shoctor for that.

We will be participating in the opening of the JHSSA exhibit at the PAA on October 25th. Invitations will come in the mail. Our film will be shown in conjunction with this exhibit. I am also working on putting together an exhibit of our own, and we have been invited to participate in the exhibit which accompanies the Citadel production of Hannah's Suitcase, which opens in the Shoctor Theatre on October 28th.

ירשה HERITAGE

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ON THE WEB...

Our Archives is now a full-fledged member of the Archives Network of Alberta Database. If you visit the Archives Society of Alberta website at www.archivesalberta.org, you will find the holdings of JAHSENA listed on their database. We are also participating in a virtual exhibit in honour of Archives Week 2006 entitled: "In Defense of Alberta." In addition, we have participated in two web-based multi-media projects through the Archives Society of Alberta, "Archives in the Classroom" and "Prairie Populism," both available through links on the ASA website. While you're on the web, check out our own site at www.jahsena.ca. And please note that our email address is: jahsena@shaw.ca

AGM

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Burial sites and More Can be Found at New Canadian Jewish Casualties in the Canadian Armed Forces Web Database

Montreal, July 25, 2006 - Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives has added a new feature to the CJC web site, called Canadian Jewish Casualties in the Canadian Armed Forces. Located at <http://www.cjc.ca/archives/casualties.php>, this is a multi-faceted searchable list of Canadian Jewish Servicemen death and burial site information for both World Wars and the Korean War.

Even before going online, the database has proved helpful for many types of research. It has been used by genealogists and family history researchers, as well as by those interested in documenting the history of specific battles and military

units. The information provided includes the soldier's name, rank and enlistment number, unit, birth and death dates, burial location details, and often additional comments about the serviceman's background and the circumstances under which he died.

The database can be searched alphabetically by name, or by keyword in any field. While the additional comments for each entry can only be seen from the main table by clicking on the last name, those wishing to review the entire database including additional comments on a single page can access a linked plaintext version of the data as well.

This wealth of data was compiled

and assembled by H el ene Vall e, Archives Assistant, with the help of CJC Archives volunteers Abe Bonder and Willie Glaser, and Gordon Jenkins of Ottawa. Their sources of information included CJCNA's War Efforts department records, the Casualties volume of CJC's Canadian Jews in World War II by David Rome, The British Jewry Book of Honour and Hart's The Jew in Canada (1926.) They were also helped by the web sites of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC), the Canadian Virtual War Memorial, and Soldiers of the First World War (Library and Archives Canada) with whom the CJC Archives has often exchanged information.

Edmonton's Jewish Politicians

BY PAULA E. KIRMAN

Edmonton's Jewish community has included a number of politicians at a variety of levels, from Public School Trustees to Members of the Legislative Assembly. Other members have run for election, but were not always successful in their campaigns. The following individuals have participated in politics in Edmonton and the surrounding area over the past century:



Mayor Stephen Mandel, 2005
City of Edmonton photo.

STEPHEN MANDEL

The first Jewish mayor ever in the history of Edmonton, Stephen Mandel was born in 1956 in Windsor, Ontario. Mandel and his wife, Lynn, moved to Edmonton in the early 1970s, where he opened

up the Mandel Group, his business involved with real estate development, construction, and operating hotel and sports enterprises. Mandel has always been an active community citizen, both in the Jewish and wider communities, volunteering his time with the Alberta Heart Institute, Allen Gray Continuing Care, Jewish Community Centre, and Jewish Federation of Edmonton, to name just a few. His political career began with a failed attempt to be elected as a Public School Trustee, but he was elected as a City Councillor for Ward One in 2001. On October 18, 2004, he was elected Mayor of Edmonton.

"I'm also the first Mayor from the West end of the City, and the first to win the first time," Mayor Mandel says. "When I ran for Mayor, people asked if being Jewish would interfere with being Mayor and I said no: Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur I won't be at work but other than that I have a responsibility to the City."

A member of Temple Beth Ora and contributor to a variety of Jewish causes, Mayor Mandel is striving towards a number of goals including affordable housing, building relationships with the North, and Aboriginal concerns. "The biggest challenge is trying to meet the expectations of the public," he says.



Mayor Stephen Mandel and Queen Elizabeth II, June, 2005.
JAHSENA Archives. Photo by Dr. Robert Agostinis.



Councillor Karen Leibovici.
City of Edmonton photo.
Photographer: Brenda Bastell.

KAREN LEIBOVICI

Karen Leibovici has been a City Councillor for Ward One since 2001. Previously, she was a Liberal MLA for the Edmonton Meadowlark constituency elected in 1993, serving two terms. Karen attended McGill University,

where she completed a Master's Degree in Social Work and a Diploma in Management. She moved to Edmonton in 1980. She excelled in various roles, including Labour Critic, Health Critic, Intergovernmental Affairs Critic and Caucus Whip. Karen has made many presentations regarding advocacy and taught at the University of Alberta. She was Chair of Transportation and Public Works Committee at the City and is currently Chair of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. She has also been recently appointed to the Edmonton Police Commission. Karen was a member of the Youth Emergency Shelter Society, the Social Planning Council Board and the Chrysalis Business Advisory Council. She also served as Chair of the Edmonton Taxicab Commission. She is married to Steve Zepp, who works for the Katz Group, and they have a son, Adam, who is a student at the University of Alberta.



Helen Paull.
JAHSENA Archives photo,
donated by Edmonton
Hadassah-WIZO

HELEN PAULL

A lifelong Edmontonian, Helen Paull (nee Miller) was elected to Ward 1 of City Council in 1986 and retired after two terms in 1992. Paull comes from a political family, which included the late University of Alberta Chancellor

Tevie Miller and father Abe Miller, who also sat on City Council, and served as an MLA in the 1950s. "He was a great influence upon all three of us," Paull says of her father. "He taught us many lessons but the one most often repeated was that we were very lucky to have been born in Canada and it was our responsibility to give back to our city, province and country. This had a lot to do with my decision to go into politics."

One of Paull's major accomplishments while in office was to pass a bylaw that demanded that any building built by the City had to have 1% of its budget dedicated to art in the public places of that structure. She served on City Council at the same time as Mel Binder.

HOWARD SAPERS

Sapers was the MLA for Edmonton Glenora with the Liberals for two terms during the 1990s. Working for several decades as a justice advocate, he is now the country's Correctional Investigator – basically an ombudsperson for prisons.

MEL BINDER

One of the founding partners of the law firm Witten Binder (now known as simply Witten), Binder was elected alderman for Ward 4 in 1986, and also served as a trustee with the Edmonton Public School Board for 12 years. In addition, Binder was chairman of the Edmonton Board of Health for seven years, as well as a member of the Police Commission and the Old Strathcona Foundation.

RABBI HYMAN GOLDSTICK



Rabbi Hyman Goldstick. JAHSENA Archives photo.

Goldstick came to Edmonton in 1906 where he became the city's first rabbi, mohel (performer of circumcisions), and kosher butcher. He moved to Edson in 1912 to operate a clothing store, eventually serving on city council and being elected as mayor.

After serving one term as mayor he moved back to Edmonton in 1930 to help found the Beth Shalom synagogue. Goldstick had four children: Cecil (sports personality "Tiger" Goldstick), Abraham, Mollie, and Celia. He passed away in 1978.

TOOKER GOMBERG

Best known as an environmental activist, Tooker Gomberg was elected to Edmonton's City Council in 1992 for Ward 4. He later ran for mayor but was not successful. He eventually moved to Montreal, where he ran for the Montreal riding of Outremont with the New Democrats, and then to Toronto where he came in second place to Mel Lastman in the mayoralty race. Gomberg committed suicide in 2004.

MEL HURTIG

When Mel Hurtig discovered his family's fur business wasn't for him, he delved into the world of books, opening the first bookstore in Edmonton and eventually becoming the publisher of the best-selling *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. Hurtig has written several books about political and social issues affecting Canada, and was a founding member of the Committee for an Independent Canada as well as founding chairman of the Council of Canadians in 1985. In 1992, he helped form



Mel Hurtig. JAHSENA Archives.

The National Party, committed to nationalist and populist issues. After an unsuccessful federal campaign, Hurtig resigned as leader of the party in 1994, which subsequently dissolved.

WILLIAM KANKEWITT



William Kankewitt and Queen Elizabeth II in Edson, 1951. JAHSENA Archives photo.

William Kankewitt came to Winnipeg with his family in 1906 at the age of six, and eventually went on to own a clothing store in Edson, Alberta. Kankewitt became the mayor of Edson in 1949, despite anti-Semitic protests. He was re-elected in 1954, and later moved to Edmonton in 1960 where he worked as a magistrate and was eventually appointed a Family Court Judge. Kankewitt died in 1986.

ABE MILLER

Abe Miller (originally Muhlstock) was born in Hungary, and moved to Edmonton from Montreal to work in the Davis general store. The rest of the family followed in 1915.

Abe enrolled in Alberta College, and upon graduation was accepted in the first law class at the University of Alberta. Abe was the youngest lawyer of his day to be appointed King's Council in 1941. In the 1950s, Abe became a member of City Council from 1951-57 and later an MLA from 1955-1959. He married Betty (Rebecca) Griesdorf, the granddaughter of one of the founders of the Edmonton Jewish community, William "Boss" Diamond, whose brother, Jacob, was the first Jew in Alberta. Together, Abe and Rebecca had three children: Tevie, Helen and Leon.

TEVIE MILLER

Miller ran as a Liberal candidate in the Edmonton West Federal riding during the 1968 election but was not elected. However, he was far more successful in his legal



Abe Miller. JAHSENA Archives.



The Honourable Justice Tevie Miller. JAHSENA Archives.

career, ultimately being appointed Associate Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench in 1984. Tevie Miller was also involved with many Edmonton and Jewish community organizations, and was Chancellor of the University of Alberta from 1986-1990. He passed away in 1996 at the age of 68.

ESTHER STARKMAN



Howard and Esther Starkman 2003. JAHSENA Archives, photo donated by JNF.

Esther Starkman served as a Public School Trustee with Edmonton Public School in the 1990s, after a career as a teacher herself. She ran for the federal election in 1997 with the Liberal Party for Edmonton Southwest, but was defeated. Involved with a number of Jewish causes, Esther and her husband Howard were the Negev Dinner honourees in 2003.

DR. MORRIS WEINLOS

Dr. Morris Weinlos sat on City Council for 11 years. He ran for council 10 times before finally being elected at the age of 64. Born in 1902, he came to Canada in 1921 from Austria with his family. An accomplished physician, Weinlos was chief of staff at the Misericordia Hospital. He was also involved with a number of Jewish organizations, such as Beth Israel Synagogue, Israel Bonds and UJA. He was married to Merle Laskin, a pharmacist, who was active with Hadassah, Talmud Torah, and National Council of Jewish Women. They had three daughters: Lynn, Honey, and Valerie. The couple were Negev Dinner honourees in 1958. The area of Weinlos in Millwoods is named after him. Dr. Weinlos died in 1980.



Dr. Morris Weinlos ca. 1963, JAHSENA Archives, photo donated by JNF.

Oral History Summary

The following is an example of the summaries JAHSENA makes of our oral history interviews, to better help researchers find what they are looking for.

HISTORY: EUGENE PECHET
 INTERVIEWER: DAN KAUFFMAN
 DATE: THURSDAY, 26 OF MAY, 2005
 LENGTH: APPROX. 1 HOUR
 SUMMARISED BY: HELEN ROSENBERG, MAY 2006



Rose and Eugene Pechet, wedding picture, 1946.
 JAHSENA Archives, donated by the Pechet family.

Eugene's parents, originally from Romania, arrived in Canada in 1902. At the border, the first order of business, as was often the case with many immigrant families, the guard changed the pronunciation of their name **Pechet**, pronounced "Peshet" to the pronunciation of "Pecket", although the spelling remained the same. The elder Pechets settled in the colony of Lipton, Saskatchewan. Mr. Pechet Sr. had learned the coppersmithing trade while in the Romanian army, but found little work in that line in Lipton, so he became a tinsmith and over the years gradually added a little hardware store. The senior Pechets also added a family of ten children, Eugene, their fifth, was born in 1916 in Lipton.

The Lipton Colony and surrounding area was home to 10 – 11 Jewish merchants and families, the **Sussman** family being one of them. A shul was built and their Jewish identity was maintained. The shul employed

a shoichet and one teacher. The children went to public school during the day and after school went to cheder. Mrs. Pechet was a very religious woman and wanted her son to become a Rabbi. Eugene remembers his mother baking bread, washing clothes with a scrubbing board, catching the snow in the winter to make water and the Saturday night baths in the kitchen, which must have been quite a production considering there were 10 children to bathe. The family eked out a living.

By 1929 the drought caused great hardship in the area with many families having to go on welfare. Eugene's aunt, his mother's sister, Mrs. **Cooperman** who lived in Edmonton, brought the entire family to the city. Mr. Pechet opened a hardware and tinsmith shop on 95th street. Times then were very difficult with a full blown depression in the country, so Eugene, admitting that he was not a very good student at Victoria High School anyway, went to work for his

father while his remaining siblings continued their education.

He soon realized working with his hands was not his cup of tea so he took off for Uranium City, way up north. Brother Mel, an engineer with Consolidated Mining and Smelting, got him a job in the mine. Eugene worked there for 2 years making \$30 a month plus board and room. When he came home for holidays he learned that **Maurice Stochinsky**, and his partner Orvis Kennedy, Social Credit Member of Parliament, had built a new hardware store on 101st street, right next to Eaton's. Mr. Stochinsky offered Eugene a job at \$12.50 a week, which was better than \$30 per month, so he took the job and stayed there for about 3 years. The entire street was filled with mostly Jewish merchants and they all did very well.

Wanting a change after the hardware store, his mother's brother, **Hymie Weisler**, gave

Eugene a job at his dry goods wholesale. There was a war going on and help was difficult to find. So Uncle Hymie put him to work as a peddler of dry goods. The territory Eugene covered was from North Battleford north to "yechupetzland" – Saddle Lake, Saskatchewan. Travel was by car with suitcase samples, remuneration being 6% of sales. There were some Jewish people in those northern areas, namely the **Smordin** family in Liblong, Saskatchewan. This job lasted for 3 years. To have a shower and a good night's sleep, Eugene would deadhead back to North Battleford every night. On weekends he played poker with the Jewish gentlemen in the area and the manager of the hotel where he stayed.

One Saturday night, the hotel manager, exasperated from continually losing at poker, announced he would like to sell his "!&*@#" hotel. Eugene immediately had the idea of putting together some investors to buy the hotel. In 1944, Eugene, his father-in-law and one of his customers in Lipton each invested \$25,000 and Eugene was in the hotel business, a business about which he knew nothing. After 2 – 3 years, Eugene was able to buy out his partners and thus began a career in the hotel business, a business about which he was quickly learning. At that time, there were no food or beverage services associated with hotels, just rooms. Across the street was a Greek restaurant where all the commercial travelers ate their breakfasts in the mornings. Twenty years later, Eugene sold the hotel for \$395,000. In the interim, he had purchased a hotel in Edson. When asked what interested him in the hotel business, he replied "the beer". Eugene continued to buy hotels, make them economically viable, then sell them in order to accumulate enough money to eventually buy a major hotel for himself. The method Eugene used to locate possible hotel purchases was to personally survey rural areas where a good population growth was indicated.

Eugene's friends, while growing up in Edmonton, were the **Hansons**, the **Marders**, the **Sheckters**, the **Bloomfields**, and the **Hillers**. He recalls **Peter Glassman** (**Miriam Lutsky's** father) having a jewellery store next to **Harry Hiller's** barbershop. "Miriam's grandfather came from Lipton and on Saturdays we all went to shul and he would take me home where we had Shabos kugel." The **Mickelson** family came over on the same



Eugene Pechet (far right) working in the mines in northern Alberta, 1937.
JAHSENA Archives, donated by the Pechet family.

boat as the Pechets and remained friends throughout their lives. Even though there was competition in the business world, the Jewish community, because it was so small, was very helpful to one another. In 1947-48 there was a large influx of immigrants from Europe and eastern Canada.

In 1948 Eugene married **Rose Simkins** from Thorsby and began their life together in Edmonton.

Their first home was the upstairs at **Liskears**, on 93rd St & 107 Ave. They lived there until 1951 when they bought their first home on 114th street.

When the Alaska Highway was being built, Eugene realized that there would be a lot of Americans on the project so he built hotels every 250 miles along the highway, but the Americans didn't come in the numbers that he expected. The hotels turned a modest profit and gradually, he sold them off, one by one, realizing a small gain in his initial investment.

The interesting thing about being a proprietor of a hotel, at that time, was that the Liquor Boards controlled the sale of alcoholic beverages. In order to receive a license to sell liquor, the population had to be in excess of 3,500. So, Eugene waited until Grande Prairie

and Ft. McMurray grew to those populations, then built his hotels.

In 1951 Eugene bought his first hotel in Edmonton, The Yale, and he was off and running. The next hotel was the Highway Motor Hotel in East Edmonton, then the old Corona, which he dismantled and rebuilt. He followed with the Bonaventure on 127th street and in 1965, The Edmonton Inn. Eugene was a "hands on" guy, working with the architects on all his hotels inputting his ideas – some worked, some didn't.

Eugene began to build the Mayfield Hotel long before the area was established and some folks wondered why anyone would build out in the "wilderness", but he knew that this section of the city was going to be built up and managed to get in on the ground floor, as it were. The Mayfield was his most productive hotel, return wise, in the city. He also now had four or five locations in British Columbia.

When asked what Eugene did for fun, his answer was "work" although every Saturday night they went to the Capital Theater and then on to the Steak Loft for a sandwich. Saturdays and Sundays were spent with the children. They had a little farm out in the

Oral History Summary

Continued from page 7

east side of the city and had 7 horses, which included some thoroughbreds that won a few races. The purses at that time weren't very large, around \$1,500, so the profit margin was negligible. The children enjoyed it. Lynn was an exceptionally good rider, however Howard and Barry preferred other means of transport. In the summers, the family would vacation in Kelowna and Penticton for 2 weeks.

Eugene's father moved to British Columbia and passed

away at 92. Brother Morris has a research facility at Harvard to this day. Sister Molly worked at **Kline's Jewellers**, in Edmonton, for 20 years. Bunny was married in Vancouver to **Murray Krasnoff**, a dentist. Sister Gwen married **Arthur Hiller**.

.After being away from Lipton, Sask. for 50 years, Eugene revisited the old colony. It had not changed all that much. The town still had the bell that hung 50 ft. in the air, the bell on which his father had applied a coating all those years ago. However, all the Jewish residents had gone.

Eugene now lives in Edmonton.

Among the many charities he gives to, the Jewish Seniors Drop-in Center is very close to their family, and the kitchen is named after his late wife, Rose. As a young man, Eugene's goal in life was to have financial security and it would appear that he has definitely reached his goal.

Names mentioned: Sussman, Pechet, Maurice Stochinsky, Hymie Weisler, Smordin, Hansons, Marders, Sheckters, Bloomfields, Harry Hiller, Peter Glassman, Miriam Lutsky, Mickelson, Rose Simkins, Liskears, Klines, Murray Krasnoff, Arthur Hiller, Cooperman.



Eugene Pechet holding the Pinnacle Award he received in 1997.
JAHSENA Archives, donated by the Pechet family.

Mazel Tov to Beth Israel!

This year, the Beth Israel Synagogue celebrates its 100th Anniversary. Many special events are taking place, including a bus tour of Jewish Edmonton, a Kiddush in honour of the Past Presidents, and a tea in honour of past Sisterhood Presidents. In January, a special gala dinner will take place which will include the unveiling of a permanent exhibit in the foyer of pictures from Beth Israel's proud history. In addition, some artifacts will be on loan for display from the Royal Alberta Museum. If you have any photos or artifacts which may help to enhance the celebrations, please contact the JAHSENA office.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Abraham Cristall	- 1906 - 1907	Dr. Joe Bugis	- 1969 - 1971	Allan Cooper	- 1986 - 1987
William Diamond	- 1907 - 1938	Dean Gerald Fridman	- 1971 - 1972	Dave Pollack	- 1987
Maurice Stochinsky	- 1938 - 1939 (acting)	Dr. Joe Bugis	- 1972 - 1973	David Seaberg	- 1987 - 1989
Samuel Shragge	- 1939 - 1950	Dr. Bernie Adler	- 1973 - 1974	Eddie Aziman	- 1989 - 1991
	- 1955 - 1956	Zane Feldman	- 1974 - 1976	Dr. Eric Schloss	- 1991 - 1993
Meyer Sheckter	- 1950 - 1955	Hy Leibo	- 1976 - 1978	Ron Levin	- 1993 - 1995
Dr. Morris Weinlos	- 1956 - 1962	Dave Pollack	- 1978 - 1980	Alvin Winestock	- 1995 - 1999
Dr. Max Dolgoy	- 1962 - 1965	Hymie Sorokin	- 1980 - 1982	Howard Starkman	- 1999 - 2003
Dr. Joe Bugis	- 1965 - 1967	Herschel Bookhalter	- 1982 - 1984	Laurie Mozeson	- 2003 - 2005
Sol Estrin	- 1967 - 1969	Zane Feldman	- 1984 - 1986	Michael Zabłudowski	- 2005 -

PRESIDENTS OF BETH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

Rose Bornstein	1950 - 1951	Reva Bernstein	1962 - 1963	Sandra Miller	
	1952 - 1954	Elsie Phillet Berkovits	1963 - 1964	Paula Weil	
Anne Eaman	1951 - 1952	Elaine Bookhalter,		Eileen Cooper	
Molly Shugarman	1954 - 1955	Raye Dolgoy,		Lil Soroka	1992 - 1996
Elsie Phillet	1955 - 1956	Eileen Cooper	1964 - 1965	Ruth Pakes &	
Eva Gorasht	1956 - 1958	Raye Dolgoy	1965 - 1967	Miriam Rabinovitch	1996 - 2000
Frances Belzberg	1959 - 1960	Janet Fridman	1967 - 1968	Miriam Rabinovitch	2000 - 2005
Helen Cramer	1960 - 1961	Violet Greenberg	1968 - 1969	Caroline Ramey	2005 -
Merle Weinlos	1961 - 1962	Ida Kline			

At the JCC...

Currently on display at the JCC you will find an exhibit of items pertaining to World War II and Jewish Edmonton's participation in the War effort. If you would like to donate a book, document or a piece of memorabilia to add to our collection, call 489-2809. Please stop by the JCC and view these items on display opposite the office in the glass display case.

CORRECTIONS:



This photo shows Norman Zalmanowitz, Jack Woodrow and Fievel Zalmanowitz in front of Zal's Kosher Mart.

Do you remember the War years?

JAHSENA is producing a documentary about Edmonton's Jewish Community during World War II, as a follow-up to "From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered." If you have any audio or visual material or other memorabilia pertaining to these years in Edmonton, please contact the office at: 489-2809 or jahsena@shaw.ca, or producer Dan Kauffman

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: 489-2809.

We have received the following donations:

CONDOLENCES

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to extend its condolences to:

Mrs. Celia Baltzan & Family on the death of Hymie Baltzan, z'l

The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta on the death of its President, Jay Joffe, z'l.

Dianne & Irving Marcovitch & Family on the death of Morry Marcovitch, z'l

Sharon Cairns, Daniel Pekarsky & Family on the death of David Pekarsky, z'l.

Donations have been made in memory of Reevan Dolgoy, z'l by:

Valda & Sol Levin

Dr. Ben, Jean & Risa Margolus

Netta & Frank Phillet

Donations have been made in memory of Hymie Baltzan, z'l by:

Barry & Maureen Schloss

Ed & Joy-Ruth Mickelson

Donations have been made in memory of Jean Tabachnick, z'l by:

Dan & Esther Kauffman

MAZEL TOV

Barry, Fani, Paul & Karen Estrin wish Harold Rodnunsky Mazel Tov on his 80th birthday.

Dan & Esther Kauffman wish Harold Rodnunsky Mazel Tov on his 80th birthday

Dr. Ted & Gloria Aaron & Celia Baltzan wish Betty & Leon Kagna Mazel Tov on their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Dan & Linda Goody wish Dan & Esther Kauffman Mazel Tov on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Ed & Joy-Ruth Mickelson wish Dan & Esther Kauffman Mazel Tov on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

The Board of Directors of the Jewish Archives & Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta wishes Dan & Esther Kauffman Mazel Tov on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

REFUAH SHALEMAH

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to extend its best wishes for a speedy recovery to:

Daryl Levine

Sue Winestock

Hymie Baltzan z'l

Hy Baltzan was born in Edmonton in 1913. His mother and father, Jacob and Nina Baltzan were early pioneer leaders of the Jewish community in this city, after homesteading in Lipton, Saskatchewan. Hy Baltzan served as president of B'nai Brith Lodge 732, the Jewish Community Council, national and regional vice-president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, founding president of the Jewish Senior's Drop-in Centre, and was chairman of the Jewish Community Council Archives Committee in the 1970s, a pre-cursor of JAHSENA. He was a Negev Dinner honouree in 1976. He passed away in Toronto on June 2, 2006.



Hy Baltzan, z'l.
JAHSENA Archives, donated by Hy Baltzan.

Jewish Edmonton and WWII

From the rise of Adolf Hitler in 1933, Edmonton Jewry joined national Jewish efforts through Canadian Jewish Congress to save Jews seeking refuge and subsequently their escape from Europe. Canada's immigration doors were solidly closed, with few exceptions: thanks to the efforts of Edmonton lawyer H.A. Friedman, 13-year-old Peter Owen was allowed into Canada by special order-in-council, the only Jewish child to be allowed into Canada alone during WWII.

Some 16,883 Jewish men and women served in the Canadian armed forces, including 420 who were killed in action, missing or presumed dead. Among those who served, 111 came from Edmonton, and 10% of those were killed in action. Their names are inscribed on the Cenotaph at Edmonton's Jewish Cemetery: Mandel Bloomfield, Irving W. Garfin, Leonard Gold, Samuel Goorevitch, Ben Levine, Moie Marder, Alex Podolsky, Allen Rodd, Harry Uretsky, Morley Wachnow.



Dave Panar and friend in front of a spitfire he was helping to assemble under camouflage in Palestine, 1948. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Dave Panar.

In a message published by Canadian Jewish Congress in their two-part publication, "Canadian Jews in World War II", Prime Minister William Lyon MacKenzie King wrote:

"It affords me much pleasure both personally and as Prime Minister, to add a word of Tribute to the record of service of Canadian Jews in the armed forces of the recent war:



Mickey Dlin, Alex Podolsky, Moe Marder and John Sunderland, boarding a train in Edmonton, heading for Europe during World War II. Two of the four friends would not survive the war. Alex Podolsky and Moe Marder were both killed in Action. Provincial Archives photo, donated by Mrs. Jack Shugarman.

For the Jewish people the recent war had an especial significance. The way of life of all free peoples was threatened by Nazi and Fascist aggression. In addition, the Jewish people had the sterner realization that for them it was not only a way of life, but life itself that was at stake. They fought not only for freedom but for survival.



Leon Kagna in front of the Oxford Flyer. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Leon Kagna.

The contributions of the Jews of Canada bears eloquent testimony to the manner in which they met the double threat the war presented. The Canadian people share with their fellow citizens of the Jewish race a sense of pride in the sacrifice and courage which these pages record."

Activities on the home front by northern Alberta Jewry were just as intensive as on the war fronts. Jewish organizations and individuals were involved in raising funds for international relief, helping Jewish servicemen and women, welcoming them into their homes and synagogues for religious observances or holiday meals and generally supporting Canada's war effort.

JAHSENA is currently at work on a documentary about our community's participation in World War II and the Israeli War of Independence. Producer Dan Kauffman has already interviewed several people who actively participated in the war, including former Flight Lieutenant Leon Kagna, who was awarded the distinguished flying cross, Justice Samuel Lieberman, who served in the RAF, and Dave Panar, a former University of Alberta Engineering Professor who helped the Israeli Army assemble and buy spitfires for the War of Independence. If you have any information, photographs or artifacts which may be helpful in the making of this film, please contact the office. We hope to premiere the film in the summer of 2007.

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Membership donations are used for the operating costs of the Society, which is a self-sustaining organization. Membership fees include spouses except for individual membership. Members are eligible to vote at the annual general meetings of the society. Membership includes a subscription to our publication, Heritaga/Yerusha. Fees cover uniform membership year from September 1st to August 31st. Donations are tax deductible. We thank the above listed people for their support in the past year.

NEW MEMBERS

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to welcome the following new members:
Penny Greenleese

JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

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

22 Umatic videocassettes from Cory Felber, interviews of Holocaust survivors John Laholla, Eva Brewster, Issy Burstyn and Saul Reichert.

Talmud Torah Dedication program, 1958; Talmud Torah Golden Anniversary Program, 1963, donated by Jack & Sylvia Chetner.

16mm Film Projector, donated by Ted Power.

"My War Years" a memoir by Flt Leon Kagna, DFC.

40 cm textual material, 3 bound volumes, 2 videocassettes, 6 plaques from the Jewish Senior's Drop-in Centre, including the Centre's Board minutes, correspondence and other materials dating from 1968 to 2006. Donated by the Jewish Senior's Drop-in Centre.

5 photographs of HRS, Talmud Torah, Peretz Shul and Eric & Anna Freifield; miscellaneous text relating to Talmud Torah's 75th Anniversary, as well as a copy of the 75th Anniversary book by Ron Pascoe. Donated by Sara Hardin Spivak.

Oral History Interview with Thelma Rolinger, done by Judy Goldsand, and 1cm. text donated by Thelma Rolinger, relating to National Council of Jewish Women.

Poems written on the occasion of Beth Israel Synagogue's 95th and 100th Anniversaries, and misc. text. Donated by Lil Soroka.

1.2 m of text and photos from the estate of Joseph H. Shoctor, z'l, donated by his family. Pertaining to Jewish community organizations, dinners and activities, as well as personal history.

Minutes from Talmud Torah Society, dating from 1990-2006, donated by the Talmud Torah Board.

Oral History interview with Mildred Ragosin, conducted by Judy Goldsand.

Miscellaneous photos donated by Bernie Adler.

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.

"FROM PEDLARS TO PATRIARCHS: A LEGACY REMEMBERED"

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



**TO ORDER CALL
489-2809**

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: _____

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Please clip out and return to:
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