

ירשה

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# HERITAGE

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

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## Do you remember the War years?

JAHSENA is producing a documentary about Edmonton's Jewish Community during World War II. 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.

## MAGEN DAVID *Bridge Club* CIRCA 1968



Photo: Provincial Archives of Alberta, donated by Minnie Pekarsky.

Back row, left to right: Anne Hardin, Minnie Pekarsky, Freda Slutsky, Becky and Dr. Harold Fayerman (presenting plaque). Lucy Shugarman, Sarah Taradash, Sarah Laskin, Fannie Podolsky. Front row: Mrs. B. Ritch, Mrs. R.M. Bernstein, Mrs. A. Estrin and Mrs. Margolus. Insets: Mrs. Nina Baltzan and Mrs. M. Bornstein.

The Magen David Bridge Club was formed in 1930 by a group of then young mothers. By collecting weekly membership dues and holding various fundraising activities, the club was able to make regular donations to the Talmud Torah school. Over the years the club purchased a piano, new desks, a movie projector and screen and a computer. They also made donations towards the school's operating budget, its 1952-1963 building fund and its audio-visual center. The club was honoured in 1980 at a champagne brunch at the Mayfield Inn where the members were awarded 50-year pins, one of which was recently donated by Sharon Cairns to JAHSENA. Sharon's mother, Minnie Pekarsky was one of the original members, and she says the club really played Gin Rummy.



## From the Archivist's Desk...

by DEBBY SHOCTOR

May, 2006

A lot has happened around the Archives since January. We received several interesting donations, including some equipment. Norman Silverman's wife Suni donated through a copy loan over 300 letters he wrote to her while stationed in Italy with the Canadian Army during World War II, as well as an oral history and transcript he made himself about his experiences during the War. This is a very interesting and unique collection, as well as timely, for it will help Dan with the next installment in our Documentary series.

Dan is currently at work on a second film about Edmonton's Jewish involvement in World War II and the Israeli War of Independence. In fact he just returned from Vancouver, where he interviewed David Panar, who flew Spitfires in Israel in 1948, and David donated some very interesting pictures from that time.

Suni and her daughter Ruth-Ellen Shafir also donated some photographs and textual material relating to David Pasternak, a University of Alberta scientist who was instrumental in figuring out how to unlock the vast resources of Alberta's Oil Sands. We received an accrual to our Tiger Goldstick collection as well, unfortunately coinciding with Tiger's passing in February. Another important donation was that from Fred Katz, a local photographer who donated all of his Jewish community photos,

dating from 1985-2001, and who pledged to continue to donate to the archives on an ongoing basis.

We took delivery recently of our completed feasibility study on the restoration of the original Beth Israel Synagogue, authored by architect David Murray. This study is available for research at the archives office. Our next step will be to approach the Catholic Archdiocese about applying for heritage status for the building, so that it will not be torn down. Thanks to David for all his hard work and an excellent document, and to the Community Initiatives Program of Alberta Lotteries as well as the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation for funding this project, as well as to board member Barry Zalmanowitz for chairing it.

Beth Israel Synagogue's 100th Anniversary is this year, culminating with a gala celebration scheduled for next January, 2007. As a result, I have been working closely with their committee to write articles and provide information for displays about the history of Edmonton's oldest Jewish Community organization.

I attended two workshops recently, offered through the Archives Society of Alberta: Fear of Film, and Care of Digital records. These workshops taught me many things which will help me better care for our audio visual and digital records. In addition, I chaired the ASA Grants committee this year,

and am happy to report that we have received a grant for \$2500 to arrange and describe the Federation/UJA records, a very large collection of material. I will be hiring a contract worker to complete this project later in the year.

I wanted to thank our volunteers, Jini Vogel and her oral history committee, including Helen Rosenberg, Judy Goldsand and Brandy Graesser, for undertaking control of this large and important portfolio. Jim Heilik and Cory Felber have completed their work for the Jewish Online World Burial Registry (JOWBR), and this information will soon be available for research purposes at [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org). Also, thanks to Pamela Finnie for continuing to come into the archives on a weekly basis and undertake whatever I throw at her.

Dan, Jini and I will be attending the ASA Conference to be held in June this year at Fort Edmonton Park, where we will be talking about and showing our film, "From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered." As well, I was recently invited to Talmud Torah, where I showed the film and spoke to Ken Lister's grade two class. I will be speaking to the new principal, Joshua Ben Simon, about how to fit this in as an annual presentation at Talmud Torah, perhaps to an older group, so that we make sure that all Talmud Torah students are aware of our history and of the Society.

*Debby Shoctor*

# ירשה HERITAGE

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## CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE PEOPLE IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH?



Group of ladies, ca. 1945. JAHSENA Archives photo, donated by Cory Felber.

Left to right: Fanny Podolsky, \_\_\_\_\_, Lucy Shugarman, \_\_\_\_\_, Rose Diin, \_\_\_\_\_, Rose Bornstein, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.  
Date? Location?

## NEW MEMBERS

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to welcome the following new members:  
Shawna Vogel, Bessie Goldstick

## At the JCC...

Currently on display at the JCC you will find an exhibit of items pertaining to the history of the Beth Israel Synagogue, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2006. 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.

## 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](http://www.archivesalberta.org), you will find the holdings of JAHSENA listed on their database. We currently have 235 fonds-level descriptions listed on their searchable fonds-level database. In Alberta In Sight, the photo database, we have over 900 photos digitized. In Alberta in Word, there are over 400 digitized documents. We are also participating in a virtual exhibit in honour of Archives Week entitled: "What Makes Us Canadian? Reflections on Alberta's 100 Years in Canada." 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](http://www.jahsena.ca). And please note that our email address is: [jahsena@shaw.ca](mailto:jahsena@shaw.ca)

# Kosher BUTCHERS in Edmonton

BY PAULA E. KIRMAN

*The history of kosher butchers in Edmonton has had its ups and downs, sometimes fraught with politics and controversy. However, it is inextricably intertwined with the history of Edmonton's Jewish community, and has had its moments of liveliness.*

Edmonton's very first Kosher butcher was Rabbi Hyman Goldstick, who came to the city in 1906. Rabbi Goldstick was also the community's first shochet, mohel and spiritual leader. He left the community in 1912 and shortly thereafter became the father of the late Tiger Goldstick, an influential figure on Edmonton's sports scene.

The first actual butcher shop where kosher meat was sold was Friedman's Kosher Market, located at 9666 Jasper Avenue, east of 97<sup>th</sup> Street, in the Ernest Brown building a few doors East of the Gem Theatre. This was a gathering place for the community from the early 1920s to 1952. It was run by Osias Shea Friedman, who learned the trade in Europe, along with his two brothers.

Friedman first opened up a shop in Calgary, which was later taken over by one of his brothers. Rabbis Pinsky, Haft and Postone operated as Shochets for Friedman as well as serving as Rabbis of the Beth Israel, just like Hyman Goldstick. They supplied the meat and Friedman paid a tax per head or "scheide gelt" to the community Kashruth council



Shea and Manuel Friedman, 1933. JAHSENA Archives, donated by the Friedman family.



Zal's Kosher Mart, ca. 1985. Left to right: Norman Zalmanowitz, Nate Siegel, Feivel Zalmanowitz. Donated by Sam and Margaret Frolich.

in order to sell the meat. He made his own wieners, corned beef, lox and Ukrainian-style sausages, as well as importing Chicago Kosher products from Winnipeg. At its peak, Dr. Manny Friedman, Shea's son, said they were killing a hundred chickens a week, five or six beef cattle and a dozen lambs and calves. Dr. Friedman remembers Mr. Shaw working as Mashgiach, and then Mr. Nelson. The shop employed one or two butchers and one or two delivery boys, as well as the three Friedman boys for a time.

In 1952 the shop moved to 124<sup>th</sup> Street and Jasper Avenue. Eventually, Osias sold the business to Mr. Schwartzberg in the early 1960s, and he in turn sold it to Marco Silverman. Silverman's shop closed in the mid-1970s.

One of the best-known kosher butcher shops in Edmonton's history was run by brothers Noach and Fievel Zalmanowitz, as well as Noach's brother-in-law Jack Woodrow. Their shop was called Zal's Kosher Market and opened in the 1950's. Noach (Norman) and Fievel (Philip) Zalmanowitz hailed from Lachva, a shtetl in the

area now known as Belorussia. Their parents and two sisters died during the war. Another brother, Mayer, had left for Palestine in 1939. Noach and Fievel came to Edmonton in 1949, after spending several years in a displaced persons camp in Germany following the war. Noach married Sara Woodrow 10 months after he arrived in Edmonton and had four children: Deby, Barry, Danny, and Hal. Mayer and his family joined his brothers in Edmonton in 1953 and became the Shamas of Beth Israel Synagogue.

"Jack was the businessman guy; the native English speaker," explains Danny. "Our grandfather on our father's side had a butcher shop in their shtetl, so that was the trade that my father and Fievel came by when they were growing up. They also practiced their craft in the Displaced Persons camp while they were waiting to come to Canada." Older brother Barry adds that becoming Kosher butchers here also enabled them to remain shomrei shabbos, which was important to them, as survivors.

Because there was an actual kosher kill going on in the city at that time, Noach and Jack would buy cattle at auction to be butchered. On Sundays, Noach would go to buy chickens from farms in the country, with the young Danny,

which were later butchered by Rabbi Postone at a small slaughter house owned by Zals near the Edmonton Stockyards, and plucked by several women who were recruited for the job. Mr. Motkovich served as their Mashgiach for many years.

"When they were killing chickens before Pesach, and they had to do a special run so they were killing on Saturday night after Shabbos," says younger brother Hal. "They enlisted Danny's help to go and do some work. Danny was in high school at the time and liked to go out with his friends Saturday night. One of his friends phoned and asked where Danny was. I said he was working. He asked where he was working. I said he was killing chickens. And so Danny was known for that at the school, that on Saturday night he killed chickens." Hal also explained that all of the Zalmanowitz boys worked at one time or another to deliver orders.

Zal's kept going until 1980 when the brothers retired and Jack Woodrow passed away. In the years that followed, there were several kosher butcher shops that started up and lasted two or three years at best. "For a while, the only kosher meat available was at Andy's Valleyview IGA," says Joe Kirman, the former chair of Edmonton's now-defunct Kashrut Committee. The Kashrut Committee was responsible for overseeing kosher butcher stores, those who sold kosher meat, kosher functions, and tried to ensure that a supply of kosher meat was available in the city. It fell apart in the late 1990s due to political issues between different factions of the community.

Kirman describes some of the efforts to provide kosher meat in Edmonton. "In the early '80s the late Jack and Bertha Fox opened a store on Stony Plain road which was sold to Kalman Estrin. This lasted approximately one year," he

Edmonton  
Kosher  
Butchers,  
Nate and  
Lil Siegel,  
Noach  
and Fievel  
Zalmanowitz.  
Supplied photo.



says.

"Jack Fox and Rabbi Sultan, who was the community shochet, began to sell kosher meat for a few months at the ABC Grocery store in Crestwood shopping center. A Russian immigrant, named Mark, opened a store with the cooperation of the late Nate Siegel and brought meat in from Calgary. Mark left Edmonton when his store closed after approximately two years. Rabbi Sultan was the last shochet in Edmonton. He left before Mark opened his store, and there has not been a communal, regular kosher kill since."

For a little over three years, Rabbi Shmuel Mann operated the Merkaz Kosher Meat and Deli in the Lynnwood shopping center near Bon Ton Bakery. Again, like other kosher ventures up until this point, it did not last. Kosher meat would have to be shipped to Edmonton from other sources.

That is, until Noach and Fievel Zalmanovitz were convinced by businessman Nate Siegel to come out of retirement in 1985. Nate Siegel, who was also one of the community's mashgiachs at

the time, and the brothers opened a full service kosher meat, deli, and grocery store: Edmonton Kosher Deli. Nate Siegel left Czshnov, Poland in 1929 for Montreal, and came to Alberta during the Depression. He was an active member of Beth Israel Synagogue and the Chevra Kadisha from 1934 until his death, and served as President of the Chevra Kadisha for many years. Prior to getting involved in the kosher meat business, he was the owner and general manager of Strathcona Furniture for 47 years. "Nate decided that there were talents going to waste," says Danny.

The store had a clear division of work. Nate was the spokesman and person who did the ordering, his wife Lillian handled the billing, Noach met and greeted customers, and Fievel did most of the heavy work. "It was really a labour of love," says Danny.

Edmonton Kosher Deli lasted about eight years until the men could no longer physically run the store. It was then taken over by Lawrence Bliss, who operated it for a couple more years until it closed permanently in the mid-1990s. Lawrence Bliss now owns and operates Bliss Baked Goods.

Currently, there is no kosher butcher in Edmonton. Members of the local Jewish community who wish to eat kosher have several options. Frozen meats and convenience foods are available at Andy's Valleyview IGA as well as Sobey's Hawkstone. Some community members bring in meat from other cities, either on their own or getting together to co-op. Whether or not another kosher butcher will decide to set up shop in Edmonton remains to be seen, but the legacy of past butchers, will remain for generations.

*Paula Kirman is an Edmonton freelance writer and editor of the Boyle-McCauley News.*

## Peter Owen z'l

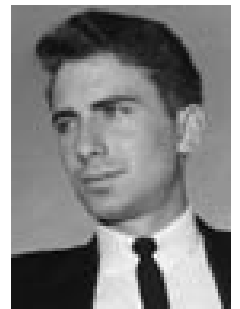
The Board of Directors of JAHSENA note with sadness the passing of Board Member Peter Owen, z'l. Peter was a long-time member of the Board of Directors, and chair of its Oral History Committee, and conducted many interviews on behalf of the Society. A biography was published in the Spring 2005 edition of *Heritage /Yerusha*. Copies are available from the JAHSENA office.



Peter Owen,  
1924-2006, z'l,  
JAHSENA Archives photo.

## Reevan Dolgoy z'l

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA note with sadness the passing of Reevan Dolgoy, z'l, who worked closely with Dan Kauffman on our documentary film, "From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered." Reevan also donated research and interviews as well as photographs he had taken on the Alberta Jewish Farm Colonies, and documentary films he had made throughout his career.

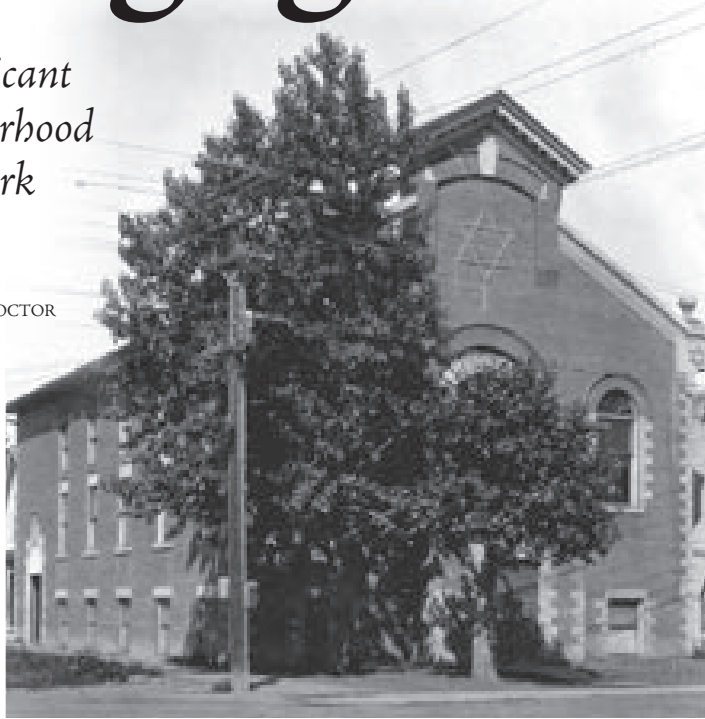


Reevan Dolgoy,  
1942-2006, z'l,  
JAHSENA Archives photo.

# The Former Beth Israel Synagogue

*a significant  
neighborhood  
landmark*

BY DEBBY SHOCTOR



The original Beth Israel Synagogue, 95<sup>th</sup> St. and Rowland Rd, circa 1935.  
JAHSENA Archives photo.

On the corner of 95<sup>th</sup> St., just before the turn down Rowland Road to Riverdale and the old Brick Yard, stands an unassuming piece of Edmonton history. You might not know it, looking at the rather plain-looking, small, white vinyl-sided church on the corner, that you are looking at the oldest brick synagogue still standing on Canada's mainland, west of Winnipeg.

Edmonton's Jewish community had its start in the autumn of 1893 when Abraham Cristall came to town with his wife Rebecca, and they became its first Jewish citizens. They moved into a house on the eastern side of the Hudson's Bay reserve, near 95<sup>th</sup> St., which became the epicenter of the quickly growing community for years to come.

On August 12, 1906, a meeting of ten Jewish men, including Mr. Cristall and William Diamond (a rival clothier who was also the

brother of Jacob Diamond of Calgary, Alberta's first Jewish Citizen) took place at the home of the Boyaners. These men came together to form the Edmonton Hebrew Association, the first Jewish organization in the city, which would later become the Beth Israel Congregation. By 1912, they had accumulated enough capital to build a permanent synagogue. William Diamond donated some land he owned, a block at the corner of Syndicate and Grierson.

A building permit was taken out on August 13, 1911, and the construction was undertaken by local builder A.E. Simpson at a cost of \$11,700. The first services were held in the building on September 12, 1912. The congregation continued to function at this location, first under the guidance of Edmonton's first Rabbi, Hyman Goldstick, who later left to move to Edson, Alberta, where he opened a general store and

eventually became Mayor.

Canada's first Hebrew Day School, the Edmonton Talmud Torah, began in the basement of the Beth Israel, eventually moving to its own building on 103<sup>rd</sup> St. South of Jasper Avenue in 1925. In 1916 the Beth Israel Congregation had grown so large, that a second minyan, or congregation, was established in the basement of the Talmud Torah. In 1928, this group formed a separate society, which later became the Beth Shalom Synagogue on Jasper Avenue, built in 1951.

In the late 1940s, after the Second World War, the congregation started making plans to relocate. Once centred around 95<sup>th</sup> St., the Jewish Community had started to migrate towards the "West End", or present day Oliver neighborhood. The original Synagogue building was put up for sale on January 9, 1952, and sold in April to the Third Christian Reformed Church (Dutch). The new synagogue, at 10205-119 St., was dedicated in January of 1953.

The Dutch only slightly altered the building. After only a few short years, they sold the building in 1958 for \$33,500 to the St. Boniface German-Speaking Roman Catholic Congregation, formed in 1956.

In 1962, based on designs by architect G.J. Koenig, the building was significantly altered and renovated. A small addition was made to the rear of the building that accommodated a new main entrance. The east façade windows were bricked in and the remaining windows were removed and replaced. The prominent brick parapet and pressed-metal cornices on the east elevation were removed. At some point the exterior of the building was painted. Finally, the exterior was clad in vinyl siding.

On the interior, most of the remnants of the original synagogue were probably removed after 1951. Some of the original finishes and possibly the lights and chandelier remained. These were all removed when the building was renovated by the St. Boniface congregation, but the renovations did not alter the structure of the building.

This summer, St. Boniface congregation will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. What served as a refuge for German-speaking immigrants to Edmonton during the post-war years has

become an aging, yet vibrant congregation, and its membership has declined from a high of about 1000 families in 1958 to about 120 today.

However, signs of rebirth and renewal are again on the horizon – JAHSENA, the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, has undertaken a feasibility study to determine whether the building itself is restorable, which would enable it to be placed on the Provincial Register of

Historic Places. This would protect the building from demolition, and pave the way for its eventual restoration as a museum and interpretive centre. With the City's new plans for the revitalization of the Edmonton Downtown East neighborhood, there is hope for renewal and a continued life for one of Edmonton's earliest buildings.

*This article first appeared in the Boyle-McCauley News.*



St. Boniface Church, present. Photo courtesy David Murray.

## 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:***

Tony Cashman, on the death of his wife, Viva, O.B.M.

Bessie and Miles Goldstick on the death of their Uncle and Brother-in-law, Cecil "Tiger" Goldstick, z'l.

Eira Spaner on the death of her husband, Bernard Spaner, z'l.

Violet Owen and Family on the death of her husband, Peter Owen, z'l.

Max and Raye Dolgoy and family on the death of their son, Reevean Dolgoy, z'l.

***Donations have been made in memory of Peter Owen, z'l by:***

Debby & Marshall Shoctor

Mandle & Norma Nozick

Ken & Natalie Soroka

Ed & Joy-Ruth Mickelson

Inger Sherman

Paul & Clara Kagan

Cheryl Gibson

William Hurlburt

Cynthia & Joe Doz

Elda Hennig

Dan & Esther Kauffman

Justice Samuel & Nancy Lieberman

Ron Sorokin & Lisa Redmond

Parkland Wild Basketball Club

Grant Vogel & Lemore Alima

Bill Wintermute

June & Glen Acorn

Harris G. Field

Val & Alex Berman

Ron Baltzan

Lou & Mary Hyndman

Dr. Fred & Sheila Greenberg

The Alberta Teacher's Association

Valda & Sol Levin

Rivie Meloff

Millie Singer

Dr. Ted & Gloria Aaron

Sam & Nancy Lieberman

Ursula and James Stuart Henderson

Richard and Catherine Fraser

Anita Sky

Charles & Florence Naylor

Peter & Patricia Toporowski

Bryan & Heather Toporowski

Dorothea Macdonnell

Dr. Manuel & Rhoda Friedman

Dr. George & Judy Goldsand

Jack & Sylvia Chetner

The Alberta Teachers Association

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

Ed & Joy-Ruth Mickelson

Debby & Marshall Shoctor

Dan & Esther Kauffman

Lynn, Honey, Val Weinlos & families

Millie Singer

Anita Sky

Jack & Sylvia Chetner

### MAZEL TOV

***The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to extend a hearty Mazel Tov to:***

Jini Vogel on the birth of her granddaughter.

### REFUAH SHALEMAH

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

Peter Owen

# “THE Sammies”

## – Jewish Life on Campus

BY DR. ERIC SCHLOSS

The Sigma Alpha Mu Jewish men's fraternity was a popular and important institution over 30 years for several generations of students on the University of Alberta campus. A predecessor, Zeta Alpha Upsilon, in 1936 had been granted a charter as the U of A's first Jewish fraternity. At that time all other fraternities were restricted, a prejudice lasting until the early 1950s. Jewish enrollment on campus had risen from the modest total of eight students in the 1929/30 term to fifty (with 22 from outside Edmonton) in 1935/36. Hy Sheinin and Bob Berkoff from Calgary were two of the initial members but the organization folded within a few years.

In April 1941 the Mu Beta chapter of the international social fraternity Sigma Alpha Mu, popularly known as the “Sammies”, was formed at the U of A. The Executive Director,



Eric Schloss and friend in front of the SAM house, 1959. JAHSENA Archives photo.



Founding members of Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity, University of Alberta, 1941. JAHSENA Archives photo.

Left to right, back to front: Harold Krivel, Norman Samuels, Tully Conn, Harry Uretsky, Charles Gogek, Hyman Bolocan, Ben Gurevitch, Hyman Wolochow, Sam Viner, Mike Wolochow, Earl Ellison, Sam Lieberman, Cliff Ames, Jim Hammerstein, Dr. Max Cantor (Advisor), Dr. Wilder, Sidney Cooper

James Hammerstein of the U.S. head office attended the inaugural installation at the Macdonald Hotel. Dr. M. M. (Max) Cantor was the initial chapter advisor. The thirteen founding members included: Clifford Ames, president, (Prior), Earl Ellison- Alumni Recorder, Michael Wolochow- Recording Secretary, Harold Krivel-Exchequer (treasurer), Charles Cojek, Hyman Bolocan, Tully Conn, Benjamin Gurevitch, Samuel Lieberman, Norman Samuels, Harry Uretsky, Samuel Veiner, and Hyman Wolochow.

Sigma Alpha Mu had been founded in 1909 at the College of the City of New York and along with Zeta Beta Tau (the “Zebras”) was one of the two major Jewish men's fraternities in the United States and Canada.

Over the years alumni have included: Charles Goren, the Bridge guru; author Philip Roth; actors Ron Silver and Paul Michael Glaser (of Starsky & Hutch fame); David Stern (Commissioner of the NBA); sports commentator Marv Albert; Ernie Davis (1961 Heisman Trophy winner); Edward Snider, (owner of the Philadelphia Flyers); Stephen Wynn of Las Vegas Hotel fame; and well known members of the Canadian Judiciary such as Bora Laskin, a former Chief Justice of Canada's Supreme Court; Samuel Freedman, a former Chief Justice of Manitoba and Samuel Lieberman of the Alberta Supreme Court.

The initial (1941) pledge class in Edmonton included Harold Samuels, Victor



Sigma Alpha Mu House, circa 1961. JAHSENA Archives photo.



Samuels, Mandle Nozick, Bernie Panar, Joe Busheikin and Peter Owen.

As the U of A for many years had the only Dental Faculty in western Canada, many aspiring dentists came to study and often joined the fraternity. Medical students particularly from Montreal also came, as McGill had an official Jewish quota until the early 1960s. Thus Reuben Wekselman, Allan Stein and Joe Shuster were members of the fraternity in the late 1950s.

Eli Adler, Sam Weisz, Sol Berg and Sol Estrin had just graduated and other recent graduates of the past few years had included Morris and Manuel Friedman, Bob Margolis, Saul Hoffman, Terry Kline, Alvin Ragosin, Norman Simons, Roy Chernoff and David Friedman.

Moving into the fraternity house at 11138 - 88 avenue in 1957 (for the next three years) placed one at the center of activities. The fraternity provided a convenient home for many Jewish students from outside of Edmonton. Calgary did not have a significant University until well into the 1960s and had no graduate faculties. There were no apartments on the south side or near the campus and few students had cars. The University residences were usually limited to first year students and thus for many the choice was between renting a basement room or the more comfortable and socially accommodating "Frat" house. The fraternity had earlier rented a home near Saskatchewan Drive but eventually purchased a house in Garneau on 83<sup>rd</sup> avenue. The house on 88<sup>th</sup> avenue was purchased in the early 1950s and provided a major social setting as Edmonton members would come over for lunch or to kibbitz, play the piano or partake in the inevitable card games, mainly hearts, cribbage or bridge.

The house had a cook and housekeeper (Mrs. Brown) and strove to keep kosher. Major arguments were frequent at fraternity meetings on where to purchase the meat... Friedman's or Zal's. The Dining room walls were covered with photos of fraternity graduates, so that we could stare at alumni such as Harold Samuels, Leo Lyman, Mel Macklin, Marvin Dower, Coymie Belzberg, Burton Margolus, Mort Libin, Henry Brezer and Hershel Samuels. Frequently a loud crash

## SIGMA ALPHA MU MEMBERSHIP

### FOUNDING MEMBERS,

#### April, 1941

Clifford Ames  
Hyman Bolocan  
Charles Cojek  
Tully Conn  
Earl Ellison  
Benjamin Gurevitch  
Harold Krivel  
Samuel Lieberman  
Norman Samuels  
Harry Uretsky  
Samuel Veiner  
Hyman Wolochow  
Michael Wolochow

#### 1941-1944

Sam Belzberg  
Joe Busheikin\*  
Harry Gold  
Jack Goodman  
Herb Guttman  
Art Horodezky\*  
Murray Krosnoff  
Maxwell Lipkind  
Leo Lyman  
Sam Loshack  
Lloyd Mallin  
Mort Mickelson  
Mandle Nozick  
Peter Owen  
Bernie Panar  
Alex Rubin  
Harold Samuels  
Victor Samuels  
Jack Sherman  
Manny Spector  
Jack Switzer  
Dave Wolochow

#### 1945-1947

Walter Barron  
Coymie Belzberg  
Ben Bercov  
Matt Bernstein  
Henry Brezer\*  
Reuben Bricker  
Judah Busheikin  
Hyman Calman  
Marvin Dower  
Lloyd Faibish  
Gerald Fasman\*  
Albert Ginsberg  
Sam Huberman  
Hy Klein  
Mitch Klimove  
Arnold Lesk  
Larry Levine  
Mel Macklin  
Burton Margolus  
Dave Pearlman  
Ernest Reinhold  
Alfred Rudin

Jack Ryer  
Simon Sigal  
Lawrence Soloway  
Nathan Starr  
Bill Switzer  
Ben Torchinsky  
Ira Young

#### 1948-1950

Walter Barron\*  
Dave Blazouske  
Garry Bricker  
Leo Cohen  
Aaron Estrin  
Manuel Friedman  
Marcel Goldenberg  
Henry Gutman  
Byron Hardin  
Saul Hoffman\*  
Louis Horodetsky  
Mal Lauer  
Devvin Lerner  
Mort Libin\*  
Sid Maerov  
Dave Newman  
Allan Pearlman  
Malcolm Podersky  
Leon Raskin  
Nathan Reiber  
Benny Rosenbaum  
Hershel Samuels\*  
Harry Saslow  
Phil Shragge  
Robert Spevakow  
Israel Switzer  
Joe Tucker  
Harry Warhaft

#### 1951-1952

Sid Adler  
Eli Adler  
Sol Berg  
Sol Estrin  
David Friedman  
Morris Friedman  
Earl Hardin\*  
Lorne Hock  
Terry Kline  
Aubrey Levy  
Bob Margolis  
Stan Miller  
Marvin Mitchell  
Alvin Ragosin  
Norman Simons\*  
Bill Steinberg  
Sam Weisz\*  
Edward Wolfman

#### 1953-1955

Bernie Adler  
Saul Berman  
Ted Busheikin\*  
Roy Chernoff  
Dave Chetner\*

Ernie Cohen  
Arnie Conn  
Dave Cowan  
Raphael Engle  
Lou Faber  
George Goldsand\*  
Barry Grieff  
Ralph Gurevitch  
Moe Katz  
Ray Lieberman  
Arnie Maerov  
Phil Mickelson  
Manuel Panar  
Zelick Perler  
Roy Shaw  
Sid Simons  
Allan Smith  
Barry Vogel  
Reuben Wekselman  
Larry Witten\*

#### 1956-1957

George Barenholtz  
David Grossman  
Harvey Hunov  
Irv Kipnes  
Aube Levine  
Gerry Levy  
Lucien Lieberman  
Lou Lorincz  
David Lyons  
Dick Maras  
Eddy Pakes  
Danny Pekarsky  
Aaron Shtabsky  
Joe Spier  
Howard Starkman  
Barry Sunderson  
Jack Switzer  
Eli Shtabsky  
Eric Schloss

#### 1958-1960

Phil Aiken  
Bill Babad  
Alfred Bloomenthal  
Mark Cohen  
Allan Corenblum  
Mel Comisarow  
Harold Dashevsky  
Cary Davids  
Joe Doz  
Fred Engle  
Shim Fialkow  
Elliot Gelfand  
David Lesk  
Henry Mandin  
Errol Marliss  
Bill Meloff\*  
Rob Nitikman  
Allan Pakes  
Ross Rudolph  
Stan Sanderson  
Cyril Sapiro

Allan Stein  
Eli Shtabsky\*  
Joe Shuster  
Stan Smith  
Barry Schloss\*

#### 1961-1964

Mark Bercov  
Allan Bleiviss  
Barry Brovender  
Rick Comisarow  
Morris Dancyger  
Mel Delevic  
Sheldon Devins  
Ron Goldberg\*  
Murray Greenberg\*  
Harry King  
Steven Kline  
David Levine  
Murray Lieberman  
Phil Lister  
Ricky Lyons\*  
Myer Rabinovitz  
Jack Rootman  
Ron Rootman  
Andy Schwam  
David Singer  
Len Smith  
Shalom Tabachnik  
Mel Tussman\*  
Phil Ullman  
Neil Warhaft  
Eric Weil  
Irwin Woodrow

#### 1965-1972

Rob Abells  
Allan Belzberg  
Marvin Bercovitch  
Brian Cristall  
Jack Epstein  
Laurie Epstein  
Carl Goorevitch\*  
Danny Goorevitch  
Sid Gurevitch\*  
Stan Guttman  
Bill Jamieson  
Maury Katzin  
Bruce Mintz  
Shelly Maerov  
Perry Maerov  
David Margolus  
Joe Miller\*  
Sidney Olfman  
Jim Quarshi  
Mark Rabinovitch  
Dorothy Robbins  
Wayne Shur  
Doug Wiesbeck  
Rick Uretsky  
Tom Whitehead  
Barry Zalmanowitz

\* Denotes Presidency

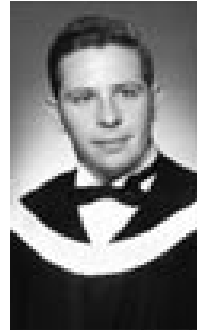
and the sound of splintering glass would be heard but the usual response was "oh, David's here". David Lyons had walked through the plate glass front door again!

The University finally allowed coin vending Beer machines in Fraternity houses in 1958 which was considered essential for the frequent parties in the house. The Sammies machine became a private enterprise operated by the business partnership of Irv Kipnes and Dave Chetner. It was incorporated as BVM (Beer Vending Machine) Enterprise. Forty years later when Irving went into the Liquor Business his first company actually used the BVM Incorporation.

The fraternity had many traditions and rituals which would likely seem strange today (they seemed strange then). To remember our Fraternity advisors, Dr. Morris Weinlos (who had served as a Fraternity advisor since 1945), plus Dave Panar and Burton Margolus, participating in initiation rituals in rather weird and scary looking robes is hard to believe today. There was also a secret handshake which we are still not at liberty to disclose. The same initiation criteria and conditions were repeated year after year. They are not suitable for recording in this family-oriented publication, but Jewish

mothers would not be proud. As the fraternity house was located next door to the girl's Delta Gamma sorority house attempts at an occasional panty raid were inevitably unsuccessful.

An annual event among all the campus fraternities was the Inter-fraternity Song Fest which began to be held at the brand new Jubilee Auditorium in 1957. Our group, unfortunately with little vocal talent despite our enviable record on Bar Mitzvah Haftorahs, usually chose one Hebrew song and one English traditional song. We were a rather uneven group, all sizes and shapes and far from sartorial splendour particularly in contrast to other fraternities such as the "Dekes" or the "Phi Delts". They were often at least 50 to 60 strong in numbers, looking like classic Joe College in Uniform blazers and highly polished shoes. Our small group also required a number of "lip-synchers" who did not utter a sound but simply made our numbers look more respectable. We usually did not do very well in the competition until one year Mark Cohen, who was known for his wonderful voice in Edmonton musical



Eric Schloss, BA, 1959.  
JAHSENA Archives photo.

circles, became our director. He had his friend Tommy Banks provide the arrangements and we at last received favourable mention from the judges.

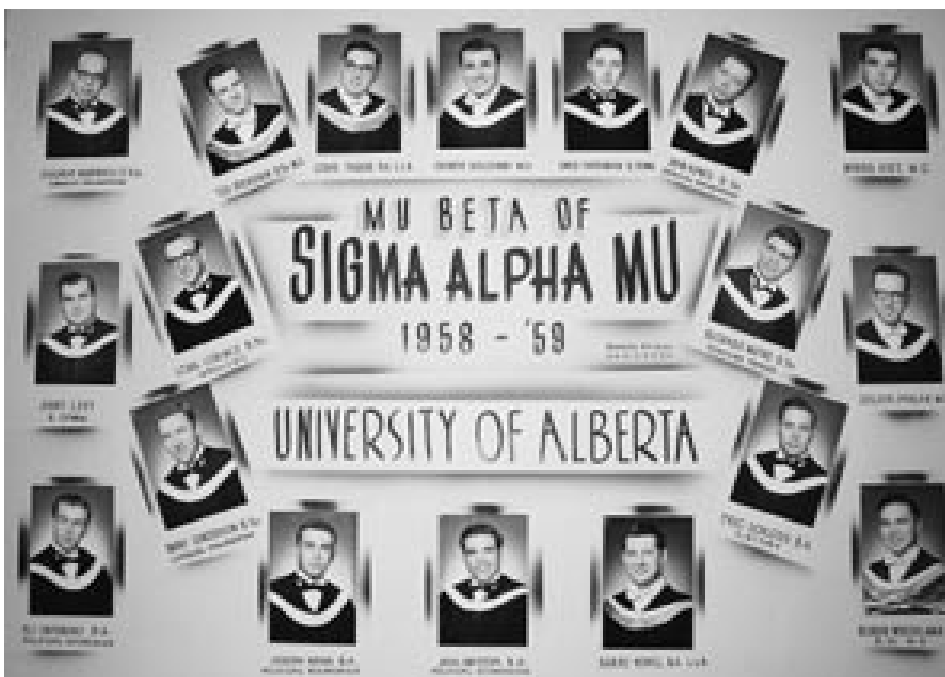
The fraternity was also conscious of community service and every year Mrs. Lottie Wershof would call to arrange for our help with the JNF blue box collections.

The Highlight of the year was always the annual formal

Dinner and Dance held at the Macdonald Hotel. Many photos of the entire group are in the archives. There was considered to be a chronic shortage of Jewish girls and therefore plans for "importing" dates often began several months in advance mainly from Calgary but also as far away as Vancouver and Winnipeg...even Vegreville.

Some members enjoyed the international Sammy conventions in the US. Burton Margolus described his trip to Fort Worth, Texas in 1946 and related his concern with finding racism and anti-Semitism in the southern US of that era. Norman Simons attended a convention in Miami Beach in the 1950s accompanied by alumnus Mitch Klimove. They were impressed by the lack of knowledge of Canada and one girl at a social function asked them if Canadians drive on the left side of the road to which Mitch replied, "It's optional"! This convention also put forward a motion to open the fraternity to non-Jewish members, which was considered controversial, as the US had passed a law to universally end restriction in such groups. It took many years however before non-Jewish members joined Sammies in Canada, and only after Jews were accepted in other fraternities.

Presidents (Priors) of the fraternity included: Joe Busheikin (1943), Art Horedezky (1945), Gerald Fasman (1946), Henry Brezer (1948), Mort Libin (1949), Walter Barron (1950), Saul Hoffman (1951), Hershel Samuels (1952), Norman Simons (1953), Sam Weisz (1954), Earl Hardin (1955), Ted Busheikin (1956), George Goldsand (1957), Dave Chetner (1958), Larry Witten (1959), Eli Shtabsky (1960)



Sigma Alpha Mu Class of 1958-59. JAHSENA Archives photo.

Continued on page 12

## Photographer donates his collection to the Jewish Archives

Fred Katz, a local Jewish photographer, has recently made a donation of all of his photographs of the Edmonton Jewish Community to the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta. The donation includes photographs dating from 1985-2001. He has promised to continue to donate his photographs on a regular basis with five-year time lag, so that this precious resource can be made available to the Edmonton Jewish Community in perpetuity.

Says Fred, "It is a pleasure and honor for me to be passing this collection of photographs to The Jewish Archives & Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta. I was contacted

by Archivist Debby Shoctor and asked if I would be interested in permanently housing my files of Family and Wedding Portraiture from the Jewish Community in the Edmonton Area. What a wonderful way to preserve the history of the Jewish Community, these files will be available not only to families and future generations searching for their personal history, but also for research purposes and preserving the rich culture that is ours. These files of portraiture will be permanently housed in acid free storage and access will be available to families to retrieve these precious heirlooms."

Debby Shoctor, Archivist for the Society, commended Fred's generous donation, and said, "The Archives hopes to get more



JAHSENA Archivist Debby Shoctor receives a donation of photos from Photographer Fred Katz. Photo by Fred Katz Studio.

photographic donations to ensure a complete history for the community. Other great photographers such as McDermott and Ernest Brown have forwarded their collections to the Provincial Archives of Alberta and the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. Fred's is the latest in this line of venerable local photographers who can see the benefit of donating their collections to preserve them for posterity." JAHSENA will follow Provincial and Federal legislation on personal privacy to ensure that these photographs are used for reference purposes only. If there is a need to

use them for publication purposes, the subjects will be contacted for permission.

The photography of Fred Katz; dated five years or older will be available through the Jewish Archives & Historical Society. "It will be my goal to keep the Society current on a yearly basis. For anyone wanting their photographs professionally finished; I would be delighted to continue that service for you. For all your current photography, please visit me @ my new south side studio 10104 - 80 Avenue."

## JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

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

601 photos, 193 negatives and 3 CDs of photos from Jewish National Fund Negev Dinners, 1989-2005, donated by Sharon Cairns of the Jewish National Fund.

10 audiocassettes, 1 transcript and approximately 448 letters by Norman Silverman pertaining to his service in the Canadian Military during WWII. Copy loan, courtesy Ruth-Ellen Shafir.

1 bound volume, 1 cm. text and 18 photos pertaining to the life and work of David Pasternak of Edmonton, Alberta. Pasternak was one of the scientists involved in the early study of oil extraction in the Alberta Tar Sands. Donated by Ruth-Ellen Shafir

Oral history of David Panar, conducted by Dan Kauffman.

Six Emunah/Mizrachi pins formerly belonging to Anne Wyne, donated by Mel Wyne.

One reel-to-reel tape recorder, donated by Marshall Shoctor.

"The Film Preservation Guide," National Film Preservation Foundation, 2004.

"Preservation of Collections: Textiles," The Canadian Conservation Institute, 2005.

"And I shall dwell among them: Historic Synagogues of the World," Folberg & Assis, 1995.

1 trophy: "Presented to Mr. A.H. Goldberg by the pupils of Edmonton Talmud Torah, April, 1921." Donated by Henry Gutman of Calgary.

Three bound volumes from Talmud Torah, 1 cm. text, 30 photographs from Talmud Torah, donated by Becky Shandling.

Photos of 51 Jewish weddings and bar mitzvahs dating from 1985-2000, donated by Fred Katz, photographer.

5 Israeli Block prints, made by students at an NCJW project in Israel, donated by Thelma Rolinger.

11 Videocassettes, 5 carousels of slides, 5 photos and 5 cm. text from Cory Felber, pertaining to the Dlin family and various Jewish organizations.

Program booklet from the Talmud Torah 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, 1988, donated by Susan Lieberman.

Photograph of members of the Jewish Community at the Cohen's anniversary at the Seven Seas Restaurant, 1958, donated by Naomi Wolfman

Peretz Shul Graduation photograph, circa 1937, donated by Dr. Tom Hardin.

Eight photos of Israeli Spitfires being assembled and readied for battle during the Israeli War of Independence, donated by David Panar.

"The Secret Army: How American and other foreign volunteers, not all of them Jewish, helped fight and beat the Arab armies that attacked Israel the day the Jewish State was born," by David J. Bercuson, 1983. Purchased by JAHSENA.

Records of Furman's Tasty Bread Bakery, 1962-1999, donated by Goldie Furman.

2 overhead projectors and 1 CD player, donated by Ted Power.

*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.*

**THE SAMMIES***Continued from page 2*

,Bill Meloff (1961), Barry Schloss (1962), Murray Greenberg (1963), Ron Goldberg (1964), Ricky Lyons (1965), Mel Tussman (1966), Sid Gurevitch (1967) and Carl Gurevitch (1970). Joe Miller was the last Chapter president in 1971-2, at a difficult time of changing interest on campuses in the U.S. and Canada. Thankfully Joe preserved the extensive records and photos from the onset of the chapter which are now in the archives and available for perusal.

Unfortunately few records are available

from the mid-1960s until the fraternity ceased operation in 1972. The fraternity house in these later years moved to 11111 - 81 Avenue and the Chapter continued to be active, also winning the top fraternity scholastic award, last recorded in 1969. Several non-Jewish students became members after the middle 1960s. One of the last pledges in 1970, Barry Zalmanowitz, also mentioned that Dorothy Robbins, a student from Calgary, became the first female member and she was joined by Sidney Olfman. Today Sigma Alpha Mu, although open to all, remains a predominantly Jewish Fraternity in its strong continuing chapters

elsewhere in Canada and the U.S.

Mandle Nozick served as the Fraternity advisor in its last few years at the U of A. He, along with Peter Owen (who had also served as an advisor) and Shim Fialkow, made arrangements, after the sale of the Frat House, to donate the funds to Edmonton Jewish Family Services and scholarships for deserving Jewish University students have been provided since that time. It is a suitable legacy to an important institution in Edmonton Jewish Campus life.

*Dr. Eric Schloss is a board member of JAHSENA and frequent contributor to Heritage/Yerusha.*

## "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 3-4 times a year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Visa Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please clip out and return to:

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