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HERITAGE

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NATIONAL HOME FURNISHERS Basketball Club

circa 1928



Photo: JAHSENA Archives, McDermid Studios photo.

National Home Furnishers Basketball Club, circa 1928. Left to Right, Back: Ben Ostry, Coach and Manager; M. Goldsmith; J. Newhouse; B. Ramelson, Trainer. Front: H. Newhouse; A. Kramer; J. Garfin, Captain; D. Wiseman; M. Helm.



From the Archivist's Desk...

by DEBBY SHOCTOR

November, 2005

Archivist's Report, AGM 2005, Nov. 17, 2005.

Well, it's been a busy year at the Archives. This year, I became the Institutional Member-at-Large for the Archives Society of Alberta, and the Chair of their Grants Committee. The grants committee met in March of this year, and JAHSENA was awarded a \$2500 grant for fonds-level descriptions and digitization. We also received a grant from the Community Initiatives Program of the Alberta Lotteries Fund to conduct our Feasibility Study into the possible restoration of the Beth Israel Synagogue downtown, which you will hear more about later from our Architect, David Murray. In addition, we received a grant for this project from the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation, which will enable us to complete the study.

In the Spring, I attended two workshops, one sponsored by the ASA on promoting archives, and one on copyright legislation, conducted by Jean Dryden from University of Toronto.

I guest-edited the spring newsletter from the ASA on faith-based archives, along with archivists from the United Church and Concordia University. I also made a trip to Sylvan Lake, to show our film, "From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered," to their Archives Society at their Annual General Meeting, which they seemed to really enjoy.

I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Archives Society of Alberta in Calgary in June, where I was formally elected to the Board as Institutional Member-at-Large. I will continue to chair the Grants Committee and the Institutional Forums for the next two years.

Speaking of grants, we had a contract worker in the office for most of June, Karen Langley, who helped with the completion of our grant from the ASA from last year. She completed the remaining fonds-level descriptions in our collection and uploaded them onto the *Archives Network of Alberta Database*, so now all of our fonds (collections) are

described at the first level, and available for researchers on the ASA website at www.archivesalberta.org. In addition, she uploaded the remaining photos from the *First Century of Jewish Life* and the *Farm Colony* photos onto the *Alberta in Sight* database, so now we have almost 1000 photos on this database.

As an adjunct to this, Janet McMaster, the webmaster, created a portal for us to be used from our own website, www.jahsena.ca, which will take the user to a specialized view of the ASA databases which includes only our holdings.

I wanted to thank a couple of volunteers who have recently been into the office, Jim Heilik, who is completing work on the Cemetery Listings compiled by Cory Felber in order to prepare them for inclusion in the Jewish Online World Burial Registry (JOWBR). Once this work is completed, researchers will be able to search the data from our cemetery, including photographs of grave stones, on the world-wide-web through Jewish Gen: www.jewishgen.org, the main Jewish genealogical website. This is Jim's second project for us – he recently completed the creation of a set of reference copies of all of our local newspapers so that researchers could use them. I would also like to thank Florie Axler for coming into identify photos, Jini Vogel and Esther Kauffman for helping to stuff envelopes, Sharon Abbott for clipping the newspapers for me, and Sam Frohlich for doing Yiddish translation.

Caroline Ullman has been in quite a bit researching the Ullman family roots on the former farm colonies in Central Alberta near Rumsey and Trochu. She is compiling all the information she has come across into a comprehensive article for inclusion in our next newsletter. She follows on the heels of Pamela Finnie, a student from U of A who also wrote a paper on the Farm Colonies for a course last spring, and who has continued to volunteer her time in the Archives.

Thank you also to Board Member Mandle Nozick, who donated five

copies of our documentary film to the Edmonton Public Library for inclusion in their collections. I would also like to thank all those who volunteered at our recent Casino in September. These Casinos provide the funds which keep our Archives going, and as General Manager Herb Freedman pointed out, when you volunteer at a Casino, you are basically earning \$300 an hour for the archives, so thanks very much!

Some of you may have seen an article on Abraham Shnitka in the Vancouver-based Jewish Studies magazine, "Outlook" written by Montreal Jewish Community Archivist Eiran Harris, in which JAHSENA is credited for securing this important collection. An article by Reeve Dolgoy appeared in the May issue of Legacy Magazine about the making of our documentary, "From Pedlars to Patriarchs." I would also like to thank board member Dr. Eric Schloss for being a regular contributor to our newsletter, Heritage/Yerusha, and hope that he continues. Thanks also to our regular free-lance correspondent, Paula Kirman.

Look for a new virtual exhibit featuring our photos on the ASA website entitled: "What makes us Canadian? – Reflections on Alberta's 100 years in Canada." In addition, photos from our collection are featured in the new documentary film from King Motion Pictures, celebrating Alberta's 100th Anniversary, on Global TV, which was shown nationally on November 5th.

A recent visitor to the archives, Barbara Weiser of Montreal, is completing a database of Judaica across Canada which will be available soon on the Canadian Virtual Jewish Museum and Archives website, www.cvjma.ca. She came to town to photograph our Torah Covers, Stained Glass windows and other works of art to include in this fabulous project, through which people from all over the world will be able to view the treasures of our

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ירשה HERITAGE

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CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE MISSING PEOPLE IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH?



AZA Regional Tournament, Edmonton, September 6-7-8, 1936. Left to Right, Top to Bottom: Morris Switzer, Ben Leibovitz, Gene Rolingher, Art Samuels, Dan Podersky, Harry Uretsky, Sid Gurevitch, Fred ?; Row 2: Jack Singer, Morley Cohen, Norman Morten, Abe Rosen, Joe Bugis, Dave Kline, Chud Tarnow, Teddy Cohen; Row 3: Joe Libin, Unknown, Alex Sosseskey Sherwood, Dave Pollack, Penny Shragge, Teddy Aarons, Mort Mickelson, Morris Sasslovsky, Abe Satanove; Row 4: Butch Hurtig, Jack Swotzer, Sid Kovnats, Curly Gurevitch, Freddie Podersky, Joe Dworkin, L. Fratkin, Alex Podolsky, Unknown, Max Satanove, Norman Samuels; Row 5: Unknown, Sam Shnitka, Mymie Medwinsky, Unknown, Alex Goldenberg, Hersh Gofsky, Jack Goodman, Hy Baltzan, Carl Safrin, Frank Weinstein, Mickey Dlin. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Dr. F. Weinstein. Alfred Blythe Studios, Edmonton.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Aubrey Rogerville; Sari Salmon Schiff.; Robyn Sperber.

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.

FROM THE ARCHIVIST'S DESK...

Continued from page 2

community, as well as other communities across Canada.

This year, we reached a landmark agreement with Talmud Torah School by which they agreed to deposit a large chunk of their archival records with us, and to continue to do so on a regular basis. Thanks to Bonnie Chetner and Andy Feher for helping with this. Next on the list is Beth Shalom, and I'm hoping our new co-President Jini Vogel and Treasurer Howard Davidow will help me with that one.

A recent donation to come our way were two cornerstones from the old Talmud Torah, commemorating the contributions of Leo Pekarsky and Hy Baltzan to the School and community. Thank-you to Danny Pekarsky, the Cairns family, the Baltzan family and the Shulman family and Irv Kipnes for helping to arrange for the removal of the cornerstones, and their transfer to the JCC.

In December, I conducted a workshop at the Senior's Drop-In Centre entitled, "Archives in Your Attic", about how to preserve personal archival resources for future generations. I will also be chairing the Institutional Forum of the next ASA meeting in Calgary. As for the future, I look forward to working with our new co-President, Jini Vogel, and the other continuing members of our Board.

*Debby Shoctor
November 17, 2005*

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who have volunteered their time recently to help JAHSENA at our Casino, held on September 26th & 27th at the Palace Casino, West Edmonton Mall: Marty Blatt, Gary Levine, Anita Sky, Bernie Dlin, Sylvia Alpern, Mandle Nozick, Herb Freedman, Howard Davidow, Leon Miller, Noel Jampolsky, Bob Aaron, Netta Phillet, Ron & Marcia Bercov, Jerry Antflick, John Bresler, Murray Glick, Sharon Abbott, Miriam Rabinovitch, Gary Segal, Gabe Goldberg, William Kline, Phyllis Adler, Helaine Blatt, Ron Wolch, David Levine, Arielle Wener, Lesley Jacobson, Devorah Patterson, Stephanie Hendin, Debby Shoctor, Beryl & Mike Nahornick, Michael Paull, Mel Wyne, Phyllis Nurgitz, Cory Felber and Howie Sniderman. Thanks also to Don Patterson, our Casino Advisor.

Thank you to those who participated in our Focus Group on the Restoration of the Old Beth Israel Synagogue: Vivian Manasc, David Murray, Barry Zalmanowitz, Dr. Manuel Friedman, Jin Vogel, Karen Farkas, Reeva Parker, Laurie Mozeson, Pamela Finnie, Caroline Ullman and Uri Rosenzweig.

Thank you to those who participated in the tour of the Old Beth Israel Synagogue: Ed Mickelson, Abner Rubin, Dr. Manuel Friedman, Joe Doz and Becky Fayerman.

A Devoted Life:

A BIOGRAPHY OF CLARA MINTZ

BY BRUCE MINTZ

I was once flattered by a comment made about my mother, Clara Mintz. She was referred to as a pioneer in the Jewish Community. I explained that she was not an original pioneer but rather a modern pioneer – she came to this community when it was starting its new growth after World War II. More than that, she was a thinker and a doer. She was a woman ahead of her time whose impact on people and families exists even today.

My Mother was born April 16, 1917 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. My grandfather Abe Abramovich was a Rumanian, who escaped in the early 1900s, married Bettie Ghitterman and moved to a town of 250 people called Bethune, Saskatchewan. My mother was the youngest of three children. My grandfather operated a General Store and owned a farm outside of Bethune. My mother attended a school comprised of one room for grades 1-12. There were no movies, no electricity and no running water.

Mom did not receive a Jewish education as we

know it today. Every year my grandfather took the family to Regina for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. My mother never learned how to read Hebrew and she never had a Bat Mitzvah. However, she was raised with a very strong Jewish identity – one that she applied to her role at Jewish Family Services. She once recounted the fear that struck her and her family when the Ku Klux Klan marched through Bethune one evening: she had to remain hidden in her own home with the lights out in the hope they would not be bothered.

Why did Clara choose social work as her career? In those days most women did not go past high school or pursue working careers. My mother chose social work not because she knew what it meant, but rather, "It related to helping people". With that in mind she applied to and was accepted at the University Of Toronto School Of Social Work in 1939. This background in education played a large role in the types of activity she participated in after her graduation in 1942. When she graduated in 1942 she was one of 25 in her class.

Her first position was at the Baron de Hirsch Institute in Montreal. This was for one year between August, 1942 and August, 1943. She resigned because she was heading back west to get married. My mother recalled that she earned \$85 per month and was assigned a poor district to work in. Her clients included a Jewish prostitute and a gangster.

In August, 1943 my mother married David Mintz, a graduate in Dentistry at the University of Toronto. They got married in Victoria, which was the place where he was undergoing training for service in the Canadian army. He came from Regina. They hardly knew each other. In most modern marriages husbands and wives spend a lot of time together and are not separated. Not my father and mother. The ink was hardly dry on the Ketubah when my father was required to go to Europe as a Dental Corp captain in the Canadian army. My mother had no choice but to find work and wait for her husband's return.

Between 1943 and 1945 Clara worked at the Vancouver Family Agency, the Regina Welfare Bureau and the Winnipeg United Hebrew Social Services. When she later worked in Winnipeg she received a whopping \$125 per month. However, the job in Winnipeg included resettlement of Holocaust survivors and Canadian Jewish Congress Orphans. She found that these unfortunate victims came from



Mrs. Clara Mintz, as a young Social Worker, ca. 1940s. Photo: JAHSENA Archives, donated by Bruce Mintz.

a completely different culture and that the general community was not much help.

After David returned from the war in the beginning of 1946, they decided to move to Weyburn, Saskatchewan, where my father decided to start his dental career. I was born in November, 1946. While my mother proceeded to raise me, she discovered a colleague from the University of Toronto who lived there. Clara found a way to put her social work background to work. She and the colleague set up a club for retarded girls and helped them find work in the community.

In 1949 David and Clara decided to move themselves and their 3-year-old son to Edmonton. The reason related to the discovery of oil in Leduc. Another reason was to raise their son in a Jewish community. After arriving here, they bought a home on 133 Street and 105 Avenue, which later turned out to be down the street from the Talmud Torah School. My brother Jack was born in March, 1951. At that time my mother was one of three social workers in the City of Edmonton. Somehow people found out about her and she started to become involved in National Council of Jewish Women and the John Howard Society.

Before discussing Clara's involvement in Jewish Family Services, a brief description of the services available for Jewish people at that time would be in order. In 1942 the Jewish Welfare Society was formed as a result of the work of a committee comprised of representatives of National Council of Jewish Women, Aznoches Orchem and Federated Budget. This committee was approached by The Edmonton Community Chest to accept a small annual grant. The society incorporated in 1952. B'nai B'rith was also involved in the delivery of social services. Every



Clara Mintz graduates with a BA in 1939. Photo: JAHSENA Archives, donated by Bruce Mintz.

year reports were provided concerning the work of the society, but what bothered Clara was the practice of revealing the identities of those persons who were recipients of the services. This spurred Clara to convince National Council of Jewish Women to incorporate the Jewish Welfare Society. This resulted in the establishment of a part-time agency.

The Jewish Welfare Society operated on a budget of \$2,000. Clara did five years of voluntary casework for the Jewish Welfare Society, and after it was incorporated she served as President of their Board for three years. She did everything on that tiny budget. The work included fund raising, community organization and case work.

In the meantime, Clara found other concerns which drew on her skills. She was a founder of the Mental Health Association; a Board Member of the John Howard Society of Alberta including a three-year stint as president of the Local Advisory Council; a member of the Board of the Family Service Bureau; a founder and first President of the Home and School Association of the Talmud Torah School. In addition, she established, with two others, the Edmonton Branch of the Canadian Association of Social Workers.

Clara had another talent. She loved to write. In August, 1956 she became the Edmonton correspondent for the *Western Jewish News*. For many years she wrote articles for the Winnipeg-based newspaper about people and events in the Edmonton Jewish community. This column later became known as the *Edmonton Jewish Pipeline*. The reporting was later taken over by David Mintz's first cousin, Goldie Mickelson.

Between 1955 and 1958 Clara served as President of the Agency. In 1958, she became its director. In 1960 the name was changed to "Jewish Family Services". The reason for the change was Clara believed that the use of the term "welfare" depicted something that would apply only to a certain segment of the community. She firmly believed that the family was the core of the community. Jewish Family Services focused on parent/child relationships, marital problems, the elderly, and delinquency.

One issue that concerned Clara was the legislation of the Provincial Government to place children for adoption in any home regardless of background. Clara appeared before the Child Welfare Commission to fight for and to guard the principle that Jewish children should be adopted only into Jewish homes. She convinced them that the Province could adopt out only if the adoption of Jewish children into Jewish homes was not effected within twelve months. Her concern did not end there. She was instrumental in making sure that non-Jewish children adopted by Jewish parents underwent a proper conversion to Judaism.

Another concern that she had was the competence of people who called themselves social workers. She felt that the uniqueness of social work was casework and not counseling. She felt the role of the social

worker was to work with the family to help provide opportunities, strengthen values and help children grow to be self-supporting, self-respecting individuals. In dealing with the people administering provincial welfare assistance to the unfortunate, Clara saw that these people called themselves social workers without having the necessary education supporting that designation. Clara expressed the firm belief that to be properly designated as a professional social worker one must have a master's degree or equivalent in social work. Her passion for credibility for her profession led to the establishment of the Alberta Association of Registered Social Workers. Naturally, Clara Mintz was a founder.

Clara also had a concern and interest in Mental Health. She was one of the founders of the Mental Health Association of Alberta. The aged became another focal point. Through Jewish Family Services a survey was done of elderly in the Jewish community. Clara was very instrumental in creating the Jewish Senior Citizens Drop-In Centre. Jewish Family Services became the facility for providing case work services on site for the members. In addition, she was instrumental in the creation of the Kasher Meals-on-Wheels to serve the elderly (1977). These important institutions remain in this community today.

In 1970, Jewish Family Services undertook a major change. Up to that point in time, Clara ran the agency by herself. She was the only case worker. At times she would bring in others as consultants. One such person was Dr. Syd Spaner, a psychiatrist. In 1970, Florence Schaeffer, who originally came from New York City (her husband was recruited as a Professor at the University of Alberta) was hired as a full-time social worker. The two of them worked on projects including the establishment of discussion groups for single women, widows, adult children of aged parents, parents of adolescents and parents of pre-school children. Clara believed it was important for Jewish Family Services to reach out and talk to the community and have them talk amongst themselves.

One of Clara's major projects was in immigration. Edmonton was the recipient of new immigrants who came to Canada as a result of international issues. Back in 1950 we had the Holocaust victims. In the 1950s and 1960s we had Hungarian, Polish and Czechoslovakian Jews. Then there was a period of time when Jewish Family Services assisted some of the new South African Jews who left because of the political climate in that country. In the 1970s and 1980s, we had the entry of a large Russian community. My mother recounted that Jewish Family Services



Board of the Jewish Welfare Society, 1955: Mat Ram, Sam Lieberman, Clara Mintz, Evelyn Kline, Morris Stochinsky. Photo: JAHSENA Archives, donated by Bruce Mintz.



Jewish Family Services receives Untied Fund Award, circa 1960s. Mayor Danzer, Clara Mintz and President of the United Fund. Photo: JAHSENA Archives, donated by Bruce Mintz.



David & Clara Mintz. Photo: JAHSENA Archives, donated by Bruce Mintz.

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Mitch Klimove:

From 95th Street to Rice Howard Way

By Paula E. Kirman



Mitch Klimove, May, 2002. JAHSENA Archives.
Photo by Debby Shctor.

Morris "Mitch" Klimove was born September 27, 1923 at the Edmonton General Hospital, the oldest child of Sam and Minnie Klimove in a family that included two younger brothers, Abe and Ralph, and two younger sisters, Ethel and Frieda.

Sam Klimove came to North America in

1912 from Poltava, Ukraine, near Kiev. He had a relative in Detroit, Michigan. After arriving in Detroit he contacted a cousin, a Dr. Nachum Hardin in Winnipeg. He got Sam a job on one of the railroad lines in Canada, becoming a "newsy," selling everything from newspapers to fruit. Sam settled in Edmonton in the early 1920s.

Minnie came from the same area of Eastern Europe, going to the Lipton Colony, a farming colony in Saskatchewan, where she met Sam on his railroad work. Why Edmonton? "My father traveling on the railroads, thought Edmonton would be a very nice place to live. Edmonton was booming," Mitch Klimove explains in an interview for the JAHSENA archives conducted in 2002.

Sam Klimove owned the original Crown Grocery, from the early 1920s to 1929, located in the flat iron building on Jasper Avenue. In its day, it was the top grocery in the city. After a time in the clothing business, in the early '30s, his father went back into the grocery business, opening Corona Grocery between 96th and 97th Street. Klimove delivered groceries and helped out after school and during the summers.

Klimove clearly remembers the tough times of the Depression, and the effect it had on his family. "When people used to come in my mother always gave them food, as long as they didn't have alcohol on their breath. I said, 'Mom, why are you giving it away?' She said, 'these people will starve otherwise.' That hit me really hard." His father had to go on the road with a fruit and vegetable truck to supplement

the family's income, sometimes going as far as Lloydminster.

"Fortunately for us, we made a living. We ate; we never suffered. Personally I had clothes sent to me from our relatives in Detroit. So we were never short of food or clothing. It wasn't the easiest of times, but as a kid you don't realize until later in life what you went through."

As a young boy, Klimove remembers all kinds of people shopping at his parents' store, especially seeing his first limousine. "As a young kid growing up in Edmonton, you'd never see limousines, but you're highly impressed when you see your first one." Mrs. Rebecca Cristall, the matriarch of the Cristall family (the first Jewish settlers in Edmonton), would drive up in a chauffeur-driven limousine and buy her fruit and groceries from Klimove's parents.

The young Klimove attended Alex Taylor School. In those days, Talmud Torah was an auxiliary school attended in the evening. After one week at Talmud Torah, Mitch was physically disciplined by a teacher and refused to return. It was at Alex Taylor where Klimove befriended Arthur Hillier, a classmate who became a lifelong friend – and major Hollywood director. "In grade one there was one more student than desks. The teacher put Arthur and myself at the same desk. I said to Arthur, 'Is it because we were the two smallest?' He says, 'No, we were both half-assed,'" Klimove says, laughing.

Bar Mitzvahed in 1936 at Beth Israel, Klimove's



Standing in front of the Klimove House, 9537-102 Ave. are Hershel and Raizie Hardin Klimove, grandparents of Mitch Klimove, circa 1926. The house is still standing. Photo: JAHSENA Archives, donated by Mitch Klimove.

move into the business world started as a young man. Klimove learned much of what he knows about business through his father Sam. "Our grocery store was open from 8 am until midnight," he says. He used to sell the Edmonton Bulletin newspaper in the late 1930s for 5 cents a copy, of which he would keep half. He attended Victoria High School, graduating in 1940, followed by studying Commerce at the University of Alberta for one year, before joining the Air Force, where he was posted "overseas" in Labrador, which was not yet officially part of Canada. After returning to Edmonton, he finished university and received his Commerce degree in 1948.

In those days, a Jewish person could not article to become a chartered accountant. On his way to apply for a job at the income tax office, he was stopped by Mickey Phillet, who invited him to work for him as a comptroller for his raw surplus business. At a salary of \$200 a month, he was paid far more than the \$50 he would have received articulated as a CA anyways. Klimove worked with Phillet until the mid-'50s. The Steak Loft restaurant opened in 1953 on Jasper Avenue and in his spare time he used to eat there on a regular basis. He was eventually asked by the two Jewish owners (Al Pfeffer and Lenny Udell) if he wanted to be a partner, (he was already doing their accounting). They eventually sold out, and Klimove bought their shares. Within a year, he quit working for Phillet and was full time at The Steak Loft.

Klimove was also friends with another restaurateur named Hy Aisenstadt. Klimove taught Hy the restaurant business, and Aisenstadt opened the first Hy's in Calgary. In 1980, The Steak Loft was destroyed by a fire. Klimove decided to retire. Hy asked Klimove if he wanted to open a restaurant together, and Hy's Steak Loft opened in December of 1983 on Rice Howard Way. Klimove continues to work at the restaurant to this day.

Both of Klimove's parents were involved in various organizations, Jewish and otherwise. Sam was an active member of the Oddfellows, a fraternal organization. Minnie was active in Hadassah, being voted Mother of the Year. She was especially excited that her medal was presented by Monty Hall, one of her favourite entertainers. Minnie passed away in 1979. Mitch himself was involved in BBYO, and later, B'nai Brith.

Sam, who died in 1971, was involved socially with other Jewish businessmen, playing cards with them every Sunday afternoon. Klimove himself was involved since the 1950s with a group called the Primrose Club, a Jewish men's card and leisure club. It only recently disbanded earlier in 2005. Mitch was also president of the Edmonton Oilers from 1974-'75.

Klimove was married briefly in the 1980s and has a stepdaughter in Israel with whom he maintains a close relationship. He enjoys attending the Beth Israel, traveling, spending time at the horse tracks, and working out.

A DEVOTED LIFE

Continued from page 5

settled over 500 Russians with two social workers on staff. She recalled going out to the International Airport at 1 o'clock in the morning to meet a group of Russians arriving. Many of these people were professionally trained as engineers, doctors and dentists. There was a tremendous job of harnessing Jewish Community resources as well as non-Jewish people to place these people into jobs. There were great challenges in finding housing and get them to learn English. Communication was a big problem, since they spoke mainly Russian and the elderly spoke Yiddish.

In 1982, Clara decided to retire after a very long career. Her letter of resignation was short and sweet. She stated in part: "I want you to know how difficult this decision has been for me. However, after 24 years of service I feel it is time to take my leave."

She passed away July 2, 2004 in her sleep at home. That was her wish and that is what she received.

Clara Mintz has left a huge legacy to the Jewish Community. She did not think Jewish Family Services belonged to her, it belonged to the community. She wanted the agency to maintain the highest principles. She wanted to see that "Jewish" was not lost at JFS. She wanted JFS to be autonomous in the community and to maintain confidentiality at its highest level. Ideally, she wanted to make sure that social workers did not just send clients for third-party service, but rather that they guided them there and then followed up to make sure that clients were serviced properly.

After she passed away I received a touching letter from one of her clients which I think summarizes what I am trying to say about my mother. This person lives in Israel:

"As a young child, Clara Mintz became the guardian for me and my brothers after our mother, and previously our father, passed away. Clara respected our mother's wish that the three of us not be separated and I thank God that we remained in the bosom of our family, at first growing up in our grandparent's home and later in my aunt and uncle's home. This decision was one that helped to shape me as a young girl with confidence. I never doubted that the love I received at home was true and deep and for this I am truly grateful. Clara maintained constant contact with us, checking up on us until we were grown, and I always felt that her care was more than just professional. She was a special woman and I had nothing but respect for her."

Bruce Mintz is a lawyer in the Edmonton firm of Mintz & Chow. His wife Susan teaches at Menorah Academy. Daughter Alisa married Matthew Singer last summer and is completing her PhD in Clinical Psychology. Daughter Rachel is employed by Environment Canada as an air quality scientist. Daughter Lezlie is completing her degree in Business at the University of Alberta. This article was edited from a speech Bruce gave to Jewish Family Services Annual General Meeting on May 16, 2005 in celebration of their 50th anniversary.



The Klimove Store, circa 1926, which was located in the Gibson Building, Jasper Avenue and 96th St. In the background are Mitch, Sam and Minnie Klimove. Seated are the staff, Annie Wyne and friend. Photo: JAHSENA Archives, donated by Mitch Klimove.

Physicians of the Century

The following members of our community have been named to the “100 Physicians of the Century” by the Alberta Medical Association:

Snell, Dr. Bernard (1919-2004) Edmonton



Dr. Bernard Snell.
Photo Courtesy Alberta Medical Association, supplied by the recipient.

Dr. Bernard Snell was a respected health administrator who led the University of Alberta Hospital from concept to world-class facility. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Dr. Snell completed his medical degree there in 1943. The escalation of World War II put Dr. Snell's

medical skills to use as a senior surgeon in the British Merchant Service from 1944–46, for which he was highly decorated for his contributions. After the war, he further pursued his interests in health administration, receiving his Public Health Administration degree from the University of Edinburgh in 1946.

He worked as a physician in Hove and Sheffield, England, before emigrating to Canada in 1957 to become the assistant medical superintendent of the University of Alberta Hospital. He served as president of the University of Alberta Hospitals from 1966 until his retirement in 1984. In his nearly 30 year career at the University of Alberta Hospital, Dr. Snell focused his efforts in building a world-class teaching hospital, laying the groundwork for the Northern Alberta Children's Hospital and the Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences centre. Today the Centre continues to be a world leader in medical care and health scholarship.

Dr. Snell was also a clinical professor in the Department of Health Administration at the University of Alberta where he inspired students and colleagues. He not only gave selflessly to the medical community but also to the community at large, serving on the boards of the United Way, the Edmonton Art Gallery and the Alberta Rhodes Selection Committee, amongst others.

For his distinguished career as a health administrator, educator and leader, Dr. Snell was appointed to the Order of Canada in 1997 and received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002.

Aaron, Dr. Theodore (b.1918) Edmonton



Dr. Ted Aaron.
Photo Courtesy Alberta Medical Association, supplied by the recipient.

The son of an Edmonton fur trader, Dr. Ted Aaron received his medical degree in 1942 and embarked upon a medical career that would revolutionize the diagnosis and treatment of allergies. He completed advanced training at hospitals in New York and the

University of Pittsburgh and in 1947 pioneered pharmacological and clinical research into the use of the antihistamines Neohetramine and Thehorin. In 1950 he completed a fellowship in internal medicine at Boston's Lahey Clinic, returning to Edmonton as Canada's first trained allergist and joining the staff at the University of Alberta.

In 1953 he found himself on the frontlines of the polio epidemic, where he pioneered treatment and rehabilitation approaches for those afflicted by the disease. As part of that work, in 1955 he helped launch a pulmonary laboratory and later would help document the epidemic and its aftermath for historians.

Dr. Aaron's insatiable curiosity and passion for patient care also led to many innovative approaches and treatments for allergy sufferers. He was the first physician to suggest the use of nasal steroid spray, the first to note the effect of antihistamines on cold symptoms and the first to develop an eye drop using cromoglycate. In addition to running a successful private practice, he established an allergy clinic at the University of Alberta Hospital, taught at the university and local hospitals, and lectured around the world. He received many awards and accolades for his work and is a life member of both the Alberta Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association.

Shapiro, Dr. James (b.1962) Edmonton



Dr. James Shapiro.
Photo Courtesy Alberta Medical Association, supplied by the recipient.

The “Edmonton Protocol” for islet transplantation offers new hope for diabetes patients worldwide with lead researcher, Dr. James Shapiro, at the helm of this groundbreaking area. In 1988, shortly after graduating from medicine from the University of Newcastle-on-Tyne, Dr.

Shapiro began transplanting insulin-producing islets to cure diabetes in rats. Dr. Shapiro came to Edmonton in 1993 to participate in the experimental islet transplantation and liver transplant training program. Dr. Shapiro was appointed as the leader of the Clinical Islet Transplant Program in 1998 and recruited Drs. Kneteman, Korbitt, Lakey, Rajotte and Ryan. Together with this team and the dedicated clinical and laboratory staff, the Edmonton Protocol was first tested in 1999 and rocketed to clinical success from 8% to 100% insulin independence at one year.

Dr. Shapiro is quick to recognize the work of American Dr. Paul E. Lacy, whose successful islet transplants in mice circa 1972 were precursors of the Edmonton Protocol. Inspired by Dr. Lacy's work, Dr. Shapiro faithfully continued to explore islet cells transplants when other researchers were ready to give up. His tenacity paid off. The future also holds ever more promise with the first successful living donor transplant in Japan in January 2005.

Dr. Shapiro holds a CIHR–Wyeth Research Chair in transplantation and is the director for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Clinical Centre for Islet Transplantation – a \$25 million funded grant award to further improve results of islet transplantation. Dr. Shapiro was also named as one of 100 Edmontonians of the Century in 2004.

One hundred physicians have been selected to represent Alberta's “Physicians of the Century”, by the Alberta Medical Association. This esteemed list of physicians represents the vast achievements and accomplishments of all physicians over the past 10 decades. Physicians, health professionals and the general public were encouraged to submit nominations, resulting in over 400 physicians being nominated.

Nominees were chosen based on their achievements in their particular area of accomplishment and their primary decades of contribution.

This information was provided courtesy of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and the Alberta Medical Association. Photos were provided by the honourees. The complete list is available on the website: www.medicine100.ab.ca.

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 currently have 230 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. And please note that our email address is: jahsena@shaw.ca Also, go to www.edmontonhistory.ca to see the new website launched by the City of Edmonton in honour of its 100th anniversary. Both the books and the website feature stories and pictures of our Jewish community history.

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.

CONDOLENCES

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to extend their condolences to The family of Milton Sorokin, z'l, including his sister, Anita Sky, and brother, Herschel Sorokin.

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to extend their condolences to The family of Cheryl Lieberman, z'l, including her mother, Esther, and sister, Debra

MAZEL TOV

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to extend a hearty Mazel Tov to: Sharon Abbott, on the birth of your granddaughter, Hannah.

JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

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

Four photos of Mayor Stephen Mandel and Lynn Mandel with Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip during their visit to Edmonton in June, 2005. Donated by Dr. Rob Agostinis.

Three cornerstones from the second Talmud Torah School, donated by the Pekarsky, Cairns, Shulman and Baltzan families, commemorating school founders Leo Pekarsky, Jacob Baltzan and Hymie Baltzan.

36 photos from the Talmud Torah 75th Anniversary Celebration in 1987. Donated by Sharon Pekarsky Cairns.

Two Pin boards from the past two Maccabiah Games attended by Edmonton athletes. Donated by Michael Paull.

Three large-format photos of District #6 AZA/BBG conventions, Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, 1972-'73, donated by Marshall Shoctor.

1223 photos taken for Edmonton Jewish Life by Neil Loomer, from ca. 1996-2005 of Edmonton and Israeli Jewish Community Events.

105 family photos, 2 pgs text, donated by Rae Spevakow Dolgoy, relating to the Spevakow and Dolgoy families.

2 audiocassettes, interview with Rae Spevakow Dolgoy by Reeve Dolgoy, Nov. 2, 1996.

Torah dedication plaque, Chevra Kadisha, 1955. Donated by the JCC.

4 transcription machines for standard audiocassette tapes, donated by Witten LLP, courtesy of Howie Sniderman.

2 transcription machines for standard audiocassette tapes, donated by Lynass, Ferguson and Shoctor, courtesy of Marshall Shoctor.

Marriage certificate of Leo and Minnie Pekarsky and Eulogies for Leo Pekarsky, donated by Dan Pekarsky.

A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names, by Alexander Beider, donated by Sam Agronin.

Rubin family photos and videos

on VHS videocassette, donated by Abner Rubin.

Family photos and archives of the Mintz family, donated by Bruce Mintz.

Photo of Na'amat/Pioneer Women, circa 1936, donated by Hannah Pollack.

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.

Temple Beth Ora

Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

BY DEBBY SHOCTOR

Edmonton's only Reform Congregation, Temple Beth Ora, celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year. Founded in 1979 by five original families who wanted a Reform option, it was incorporated in 1980, and joined the American Union of Hebrew Congregations in 1981. The congregation first met at the home of Alexis and Shawn Gold, moving to the Jewish Community Centre as the congregation grew. By high holidays of its first year, the congregation had grown to 20 family units. It continued to grow steadily over the years and now has about 90 family units. Reform Judaism has the distinction of being the largest Jewish movement in the United States, yet the smallest in Canada.

At first, the congregation was served by a succession of student rabbis from the Reform college in California. The first ordained Rabbi to come to



Cantor David Mannes and Sandra Ghitter Mannes.
Photo: JAHSENA Archives, donated by Shawn Gold for Temple Beth Ora.

Beth Ora was Rabbi Katz. The first Rabbi hired on a part-time basis was Rabbi Joseph Melamed of Fresno, California, who stayed only one year. The first permanent Rabbi was Paul Sidlofsky, who, with his wife Wendy stayed for two years. The current Rabbi, Lindsay bar Joseph, a Calgary native, was hired in 1996.

Although the congregation was comprised largely of young families in the early years, it now comprises members of all age groups, with most members falling in the 35-50 age group. Most of the members have moved to Edmonton from elsewhere in Canada or the U.S. and have made many lasting friendships through the Temple. For many, Temple Beth Ora is their first introduction to Reform Judaism. There has consistently been a strong core of volunteers, including Presidents, such as Les and Susan Halpert, Susan Lieberman, Howard Davidow, Cheryl and Steven Friedenthal, Shawn Gold, Barry Rosof and Graham Usher. Many congregants also hold responsible positions in the Edmonton Jewish and general communities. Mayor Stephen Mandel and his wife Lynn are long-standing members of our congregation. Our membership is predominantly professional with many working in the fields of education, social services, law and medicine. Nearly half the congregation's members are intermarried, or Jews-by choice.

The congregation holds services in the Coloniale room at the JCC. This room holds approximately 250 people and overlooks the North Saskatchewan River in the Rio Terrace neighbourhood of West Edmonton. The room is graced by five beautiful stained-glass windows designed by congregant and Architect Vivian Manasc, and executed by her father, Bert Manasc. They symbolize the five books of the Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and



Jeff Pearson and Bill Dolman,
June 1986.
Photo: JAHSENA Archives, donated
by Shawn Gold for Temple Beth Ora.



Marion Cummings and Student Rabbi Shawn Weiner,
Rosh Hashanah 1980. Photo: JAHSENA Archives, donated by
Shawn Gold for Temple Beth Ora.

Deuteronomy. The congregation now owns three Sefer Torah. The first Torah, the Westminster Torah, originally came from Czechoslovakia, and was recovered from the Holocaust. It is thought to be about 200 years old. The cover was donated by the Ghitter and Ghitter-Mannes families, and was made by congregant Frances Fine, who also designed the curtains for the Aron Hakodesh.

The second Torah is probably from Romania.

The third Torah was donated by Bill and Trudianne Dolman in 1998. It is thought to be about 50 years old and of German origin.

The Temple offices are in the basement of the JCC, as are its classrooms for the Beit Sefer, or religious school. The Temple has run its own Beit Sefer, since 1980. This provides Jewish and Hebrew education for children of the community aged 5-13 who do not attend a Hebrew Day School. Teachers have included David Mannes, Karen Barnes, Cheryl Friedenthal, Ron Abells, Susan Lieberman, Dan Barer, Christina Salmela, Mark Halpert, Maita Silver, Barry Greenspan and Sharon Hundert, as well as student teachers from the congregation. Currently there are 28 students enrolled in Sunday school

Continued on page 11

Memories of the Old Beth Israel Synagogue

BY RACHEL SPEVAKOW DOLGOY

My first glimpse of the Beth Israel Synagogue was in the fall of 1922. My late mother, Clara Spevakow and my late brother Abe and I had arrived in Canada from a small village in Russia, called Aral, in August of that year, to a village called Innisfree, 100 miles East of Edmonton. My dad ran a General Store there. On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we came to Edmonton to observe the Yom Tov. In Russia, our little Synagogue was small. The women were upstairs, the men down – enough benches for the few Jews who were left alive after the horrible pogroms. The seats were long benches, and except for the Oren Kodesh, nothing was elaborate. So when I entered the synagogue – to my young eyes the building seemed enormous. In the upstairs balcony sat the women, all beautifully dressed, but their hats were sensational. Each hat was different, gorgeous and very elegant. The seats were arranged around the balcony, to my recollection in tiers, so we could look down, and see the men. They in turn could look up, and some of the young men would cast their eyes on the young women, and every so often, discovered their future wives. The children usually stayed outside and played in the yard in back of the shul.

To me, Rabbi Pinsky's voice has stayed in my memory to this day, it was so memorable. The interior, with its stained glass windows, the beautiful Oren Kodesh with its red velvet curtain and the Torahs, with lovely covers and crowns, seemed awesome to me. That first Synagogue was where my husband Max and I were married, so it has stayed with me in a memorable way.

Rabbi Pinsky was a very handsome man, and he had a sweet, beautiful tenor voice. His chanting of the services was very touching, very melodious, and melted one emotionally when one heard him. He also, according to the congregants who knew him, was a fine Rabbi and a good organizer, and a very kind and gentlemanly human being. He left Edmonton after his wife was killed accidentally by a streetcar. (*She was the only person ever to be killed by an Edmonton streetcar.*)



Rabbi Pinsky in front of the Ark at the old Beth Israel Synagogue, 95th St. and Rowland Road. Circa 1930. Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta.

TEMPLE BETH ORA

Continued from page 10

classes.

There has always been a strong musical tradition at Temple Beth Ora. Marion Cummings was the first person to lead music during the services. She was followed by Emma Oskin and Maita Silver. Cantor David Mannes was a long-time participant in Shabbat services, and is an associate member of the American Conference of Cantors. Maita Silver founded the choir, Chavurot HaSHIR, in about 1994. This group of about 10 women practice every week to be able to accompany the services on Shabbat. In 2001, they released their own CD, entitled: "If it's Tuesday, it must be Shabbat," a tongue-in-cheek reference to their Tuesday night practices. The CD is still available through the Temple office.

A 25th anniversary celebration for the Temple was held on Friday, December 2, 2005, and many current and former members were in attendance. They hope to be around to celebrate the Temple's 50th anniversary, in 2055.



The Beth Israel Choir, led by Rabbi Pinsky (Centre). Circa 1930. Can you identify any of the choirboys? Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta

"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 VHS for \$12 or on DVD for \$18. Please contact the Archives office at 489-2809.



TO ORDER CALL
489-2809

Do you remember...

Do you remember the old Beth Israel Synagogue?

JAHSENA has engaged the services of Architect David Murray to conduct a feasibility study into the possible restoration of the old Beth Israel Synagogue on the corner of 95th St. and Rowland Rd. (Now St. Boniface Catholic Church). Mr. Murray

needs old photographs of both the interior and exterior of the building, to determine exactly what it looked like in its heyday. If you have any photographs, drawings, or even just a clear picture of what the synagogue looked like in your memory, please contact the JAHSENA office at 489-2809.

Do you remember the War years?

JAHSENA is looking into doing 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 pertaining to these years in Edmonton, please contact the office at: 489-2809 or jahsena@shaw.ca.



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
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- I am interested in serving as a volunteer.
- I have historical material that I would like to donate. Please call me.

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Please clip out and return to:

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