

ירשה

Heritage – Yerusha
Winter 2010
Tevet 5770
VOLUME 12, NO. 2
www.jahsena.ca



HERITAGE

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

INSIDE



The Changing Face of Sisterhood

page 4



Our Lady of the Rocks

page 8



Dr. Harry

page 10

Talmud Torah's 100th Anniversary is coming! Do you have any class photos?

JAHSENA Receives Edmonton Historical Board Award



Edmonton Historical Board Awards Night, November 5, 2009 at McCauley School. Pictured are the 2009 award winners, including Dan Kauffman (centre right, seated), holding the award he received on behalf of JAHSENA for his documentaries: "From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered," and "Bittersweet Memories: The War Years." EHB photo.



President's Report, by JINI VOGEL

Winter, 2010

In November, 2009 at the AGM our existing slate of officers was re-elected for another year. The Executive includes Dan Kauffman, Past President; myself as President; Judy Goldsand, Vice-President Community Outreach; Mel Wyne, Vice-President, Membership; and the all-important keeper of the purse strings, Howard Davidow as Vice-President, Finance. Gloria Aaron continues as Secretary and we are happy to welcome Miriam Rabinovitch to our Board of Directors.

The primary goal of JAHSENA is to preserve the Jewish Heritage of Edmonton and Northern Alberta for generations to come (l'dor va dor") -- to help preserve our past for the future. Memory is an important Jewish value and from an early age Jews are taught the importance of knowing our history. Our focus for the coming year is to enrich and enlarge our collection of historical materials. We have a committee who will identify people who have materials and will help arrange for their transfer to us for safekeeping. Please contact our office if you have such textual materials, pictures, letters, films, etc.

Eulogies written by friends or family members are often the best information we can collect about the life of a person. JAHSENA has a collection of eulogies and obituaries of many members of the Jewish Community of Edmonton, going back many years. Sadly this year we have lost some 36 members of the community. If you have a eulogy you would like to donate, please contact our office. Our Archives will keep this information safe in our files for many years, so that it can be accessed by future generations, friends, family members and researchers. We are also exploring

opportunities with the Chevra Kadisha to gather these special written memories.

We will also be contacting organizations in the community to put formal agreements in place in order to keep safe and secure their papers, newsletters, minutes and photographs in our Archives. We already have agreements in place with many organizations, but we will not stop until all Jewish organizations in the city recognize us as the safest place to keep their historical records.

These are ambitious plans, but with the help of our Board and members they are achievable. I will update you on our progress in the next issue. Keep warm and we'll talk in the spring.

Jini Vogel
President, JAHSENA



Dr. Bob Solomon spoke at our JAHSENA AGM in November. Simons photo.

ירשה HERITAGE

PUBLISHED BY
The Jewish Archives &
Historical Society of
Edmonton & Northern Alberta

PRESIDENT
JINI VOGEL

ARCHIVIST & EDITOR
DEBBY SHOCTOR

TREASURER
HOWARD DAVIDOW

SECRETARY
GLORIA AARON

VICE PRESIDENTS
JUDY GOLDSAND
MEL WYNE

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
CORY FELBER
DR. MANUEL FRIEDMAN
BARRY ZALMANOWITZ
DR. ERIC SCHLOSS
HAL SIMONS
MIRIAM RABINOVITCH

PAST PRESIDENT
DAN KAUFFMAN

FOUNDING PRESIDENT
URI ROSENZWEIG

GRAPHIC DESIGN &
PRINTING
PAGEMASTER PUBLICATION
SERVICES INC.

MAILING ADDRESS
JAHSENA, 7200-156 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, T5R 1X3

Telephone 780-489-2809

Fax 780-481-1854

Email jahsena@shaw.ca

Website www.jahsena.ca

Dan Kauffman Honoured by the City of Edmonton

In a ceremony at Edmonton City Hall on November 23rd, JAHSENA Past President Dan Kauffman was honoured at the City of Edmonton's Salute to Excellence Citation and Performance Awards.

The Citation Awards honour individuals or groups who have given significant service and inspirational leadership in the voluntary sector of arts and culture, sports, and community service.

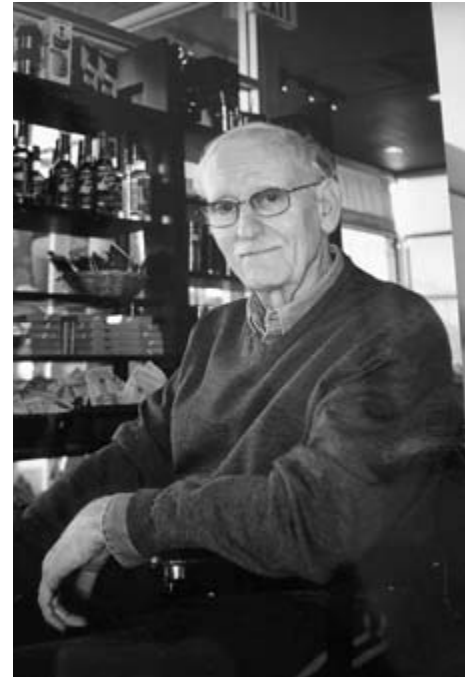
Dan Kauffman worked for CFRN-CTV Television for 35 years, mainly in public and community affairs, where he produced documentaries and feature programming, winning several national awards. Kauffman has generously shared his time and talents to assist the work of the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta.

As president of the society, Kauffman produced two award-winning documentaries about early Jewish set-

tlers in Edmonton: "From Pedlars to Patriarchs, A Legacy Remembered" in 2004, and the Jewish community's contribution to Canada's war effort during World War II: "Bittersweet Memories: The War Years," in 2006.

His outstanding involvement in the local community includes serving as President of Edmonton B'nai Brith Lodge and advisor and board member for the B'nai Brith Youth Organization.

Other honourees that evening included Francis Dunnigan, violinist and music teacher; Ava Karvonen, television and media producer; Amy Loewan, visual artist and teacher; David Norwood, founding chair of the Edmonton Concert Hall Foundation; Keith Turnbull, Librarian and sculptor; Margaret Reine, environmental education and protection leader; Sid van der Meulen, realtor and community activist; Sean Caulfield, Artist and teacher; and author and playwright Marty Chan.



JAHSENA Past President Dan Kauffman.
David Kauffman photo.

JAHSENA receives Edmonton Historical Board award

On Thursday, November 5th, 2009, Dan Kauffman accepted an award from the Edmonton Historical Board on behalf of JAHSENA for the films he produced for the Society, "From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered," and "Bittersweet Memories: The War Years."



Left to Right, Back to Front: Hal Simons, Mel Wyne, Membership Chair, Helen Rosenberg, Oral History Transcriptions, Jini Vogel, President, Harry Nolan, Ruth Nolan, Front Row: Debby Shocter, Archivist, Dan Kauffman, Past President, Esther Kauffman, Margaret Frohlich, Member. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Hal Simons.

Sisterhoods and Synagogues

PAULA E. KIRMAN

Sisterhoods have been a part of synagogue life for decades, if not longer. Providing both a social and charitable outlet for the women of the congregation, the activities of Sisterhoods generally range from get-togethers to bake, sew, or converse over coffee, to volunteer work in the greater community. Here in Edmonton, Sisterhoods have been active in most of the major synagogues.

BETH ISRAEL

Beth Israel's Sisterhood was started in the early 1950s by Rabbi Abraham Postone and his wife, Evelyn. Rose Bornstein was the first President, serv-

ing from 1950-1951. "Rabbi Postone felt that the women should form their own group to help the synagogue in whatever way they could," writes Miriam Rabinovitch, a long-time Beth Israel member and former Sisterhood President in a history prepared for JAHSENA. "It was a time when most of the women were working in their homes, raising their children and

volunteering in the many organizations that link the Jewish people in the world together."

Originally known as B'not Israel, literally, "Daughters of Israel," the group saw the women of this Orthodox shul becoming proficient in administrative and organizational skills, as well as being effective fundraisers. The women also did all of the kosher cooking and baking



Beth Israel Sisterhood 1970s: Back: Unknown, Lottie Wershof, Anne Nelson, Molly Dlin, Mrs. Zoberman, Tzila Dolinko, Mrs. Zipperstein, Unknown, Mania Rodnunsky, Bertha Fox, Freda Slutsky, Unknown, Mrs. Podolsky, Unknown, Minnie Klimove. Seated: Shirley Pakes, Rose Bornstein. JAHSENA Archives.



Sisterhood Seniors early '60s: Back: Mrs. Cohen, Mrs. Shragge, Mrs. Dlin, Mrs. Rodnunsky. Front: Mrs. Ullman, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Grabow, Unknown. JAHSENA Archives, McDerimid photo, Edmonton.



Beth Israel Sisterhood members, 1960. Back: Unknown, Bertha Fox, Merle Weinlos, Shirley Lasin, Rose Bornstein, Lottie Wershof. Seated: A. Perler. Mrs. A.L. Cohen, Clara Baedeker. JAHSENA Archives photo.



Beth Israel Sisterhood, 1946-1950: Back: Rose Shtabsky, Unknown, Sonia Shtabsky, Molly Starkman, Eva Gorasht, Mrs. Miller. Row 2: Mrs. Shragge, Helen Cowan, Mania Rodnunsky, Fay Satanove, Unknown, Molly Grabow, Unknown, Mrs. Cohen. Front: Mrs. Bercov, Henya Hardin, Molly Shugarman, Merle Weinlos, Tzila Dolinko, Evelyn Postone, Anne Eaman, Rose Bornstein, Rebecca Nelson, Mrs. Ullman. JAHSENA Archives.

for functions, including set up, take down, and cleaning. The Oneg Shabbat held on Friday nights was also regularly sponsored by the Sisterhood.

Some of the Sisterhood's accomplishments over the years include building the Aron Hakodesh (Ark) in the shul's former location on 119th Street, renovating and refurbishing the kitchen in that building, and helping to establish the Sunday School and youth programs. As well, the organization opened and ran a gift shop where many Judaica items could be purchased and sponsored Sunday brunches for a "Tallis and Tefilin" group of boys organized by Rabbi Postone.

The Sisterhood has also been a stepping stone for women within the shul to make the transition onto the Board. In 1969, the first Sisterhood member joined the Beth Israel Congregation Board. This was a huge milestone. "It was a day to celebrate our

acceptance as fully participating members of the organization," Rabinovitch writes. Over the years, other Sisterhood representatives have been a part of the Board, including Justice Laurie Mozeson, who rose to the rank of first female President of the Board in 2003.

Over the years, the Sisterhood has handled sending out cards from the shul (get well, simcha, etc.) as well as being active within the community through yard sales to raise funds to purchase things like new dishes and refrigerators, making latkes and pastries for the Chanukah celebrations at Canterbury Court, and sponsoring teas and Kiddushim.

In 1999, on February 28, the sisterhood donated a new Torah to Beth Israel, the first new Torah in 40 years.

After 1999, the Sisterhood slowed down, evolving into a book club and changing its name. Although the



Beth Israel sisterhood Torah Presentation, 1999. L-R: Ruth Pakes, Miriam Rabinovitch, Alvin Weinstock. JAHSENA Archives photo.

Continued on page 6

SISTERHOODS & SYNAGOGUES*Continued from page 5*

Sisterhood is no longer active, women are still very much involved in Beth Israel on the board and as volunteers for many different events. When the shul celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2006, there were funds remaining from the Sisterhood which were used to purchase a memorial board to honour this milestone for the synagogue.

BETH SHALOM

Beth Shalom is affiliated with the Conservative movement. Its Sisterhood began in 1951 with Mrs. L. A. Miller as President, and first, second, and third Vice Presidents respectively were Mrs. L. Podersky, Mrs. I. Kline, and Mrs. M. I. Lieberman. However, by the late '80s,

although the Sisterhood still existed at Beth Shalom, it was active on paper only – dues were collected and put towards various Sisterhood obligations.

The Sisterhood was reconstituted in 1991 under a different name. “Rhoda Friedman contacted a number of women who were members of Beth Shalom and held a meeting at her home to find out what the women wanted from this group,” says Mona Gross, who was present at that meeting. “We began by 10-12 of us taking on the task of planning and executing a program one at a time for each month. We then had coffee, tea and cake and an opportunity to socialize.

“In 1992, it was suggested that we rejoin the national organization of the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. The group generally agreed, but decided that we no longer wished to be called Sisterhood. Many of those women who had been involved previously had issue with this and thus we were originally called Women’s League/Sisterhood of Beth Shalom Synagogue,” Gross explains.

The Women’s League is involved with a number of works both with and for the synagogue. “We try to promote education within the community about what they wish to know regarding Judaism; about Torah; about davening; and generally about being a Jewish woman,” says Gross. “We try to reach women of all ages and get them involved with things that they would enjoy. If they want education, we try to make it happen; if they want socialization, we try to make it happen. In addition to this, we do community work in social action for the broader community as well as just the Jewish community. We



Beth Israel Sisterhood 15th Anniversary. L-R: Unknown, Miriam Adler, Evelyn Postone, Rabbi Postone, Unknown, Unknown. JAHSENA Archives photo. Ca. 1965.

raise funds to do projects for the synagogue; we contribute monies to various projects within the synagogue. We work at increasing our own education about Judaism in the ways in which we are comfortable.”

Netta Phillet became President of the Women’s League in 1994, followed by Miriam Katz in 1996 and Nancy Elman in 1998. The current President is Rebbetzin Shelley Kunin. As well, members of the Women’s League have served on the board of Beth Shalom, both before and after being involved with the League. “Presently, Moira Saks, Odette Masliyah, and Debby Remis are serving on both the synagogue board and Women’s League board at the same time,” says Gross. “Women’s League also has a seat on the Beth Shalom Board and has since I have been involved with it. In the past, Rhoda Friedman has served on both boards as have many others.” A milestone was reached in 1985 When Catherine Miller-Dolgoy became the first female President of The Synagogue. She served until 1989. Since then, others have followed in her footsteps including Mila Plots and current President, Arlene Aaron Morin.

More than just serving local synagogues and communities, the Conservative movement’s Women’s League has international influence.

Presidents of the Beth Israel Sisterhood

Rose Bornstein z'l	1950-1951
Anne Eaman z'l	1951-1952
Rose Bornstein z'l	1952-1954
Molly Shugarman z'l	1954-1955
Elsie Phillet z'l	1955-1956
Eve Gorasht z'l	1956-1958
Frances Belzberg	1959-1960
Helen Cramer z'l	1960-1961
Merle Weinlos z'l	1961-1982
Reva Bernstein	1962-1963
Raye Dolgoy, Elaine Bookhalter and Eileen Cooper	1964-1965
Raye Dolgoy	1965-1967
Janet Fridman	1967-1968
Violet Greenberg	1968-1969
Ida Kline z'l	197?
Sandra Miller	197?
Eileen Cooper	1980-1982
Lil Soroka	1992-1996
Ruth Pakes and Miriam Rabinovitch	1996-2000
Miriam Rabinovitch	2000-2005
Caroline Ramey	2005-2008

"The organization serves on several committees and has a non-voting seat at the UN. Their opinion is taken as being very important within circles of these committees and organizations," Gross explains.

"As for our own Women's League, we have been very active within the synagogue since our inception (1991). In addition to being active within the shul, we are actively involved within what we now call a region. Previously, we were the Pacific Northwest Branch. We were then the Pacific Northwest Region, and then we were combined with the Northern California Region and we are now the North by Northwest Region (NxNW). Many of the women from our group have served and are serving on both the National and Regional Boards. We try to travel to our Regional conferences yearly and our International Convention every second year. We have, since 1992, held two conferences here in Edmonton. Both of these were very successful."

TEMPLE BETH ORA

Temple Beth Ora, Edmonton's Reform Jewish congregation, has never had a formal sisterhood, according to long-time member Ann Goldblatt. She

attributes this to the egalitarian nature of Reform Judaism, which has always included women in every aspect of synagogue life. It is the only congregation in Edmonton which has ever employed women as Rabbis, starting with student Rabbi Ellen Wierzba.

However, there were practical reasons as well for not starting up a local sisterhood. "I would say one of the main reasons we didn't form a sisterhood is our size," says Goldblatt. "We have grown over the years but, as a small congregation, there is less inclination to divide by gender."

Reform Judaism itself does have a sisterhood movement. Called Women of Reform Judaism, it is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism. Formed in 1913 as The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods (NFTS), it was renamed in 1993 and is involved in a broad scope of social action. More information about the organization can be found at www.womenofreformedjudaism.org.

A women's-specific group emerged at TBO in another format than a sisterhood. When Rabbi Lindsay Bat Joseph led the congregation (from 1996 to 2007), she started up a book club

Continued on page 9

Presidents of Beth Shalom Sisterhood/Women's League

Ray Miller z'l
Ann Podersky z'l
Celia Baltzan z'l
Ruth Kline z'l
Esther Rosenthal
Frances Lane z'l
Seda Margolus z'l
Nancy Lieberman
Helene Sussman z'l
Bunny Smordin z'l
Sherry Mannes
Beryl Nathan
Betty Nitkin
Donna Cipin z'l
Sylvia Alpern
Rhoda Friedman
Rita Milavsky z'l
Frances Chatrin
Mona Gross
Notte Phillet
Miriam Katz
Nancy Elman
Patte Jordan Huberman
Debby Remis
Shelley Kunin



Beth Shalom Women's League, ca. 1998. L-R: Sylvia Alpern, Helaine Blatt, Mila Plots, Shoshana Szlachter, Gloria Frankel, Patte Jordan Huberman, Mildred Ragosin Ruth-Ellen Shafir, Helen Sussman, Miriam Katz, Netta Phillet, Sondra Grosh.



Beth Shalom Women's League, circa 2000. L-R: Netta Phillet, Helaine Blatt, Sylvia Alpern, Miriam Cooper, ?, Nancy Elman, Patte Jordan Huberman, Mona Gross, Sondra Grosh.

Our Lady of the Rocks

By DEBBY SHOCTOR

Doreen Grobman is a woman with a purpose. She wants to spread the word about her latest project across the country and even around the world.

Although she lived most of her life in a small town – North Battleford, Saskatchewan, and was born in an even smaller one – Yorkton, Saskatchewan, this feisty Senior now lives in Edmonton, where she keeps active with what she believes is a unique, and what many in the community feel is simply a wonderful project.

Doreen paints Stars of David on rocks for people visiting the local Jewish Cemetery to leave on the gravestones of their relatives and friends to show that they have visited, and that they care about the departed ones. Doreen in turn is showing the entire community that she cares, and they in turn appreciate her efforts.

The ancient Jewish custom of leaving a rock or small stone as a token when visiting a grave derives from many sources. In ancient times, graves were merely piles of rocks, so by leaving a stone atop the gravestone, the visitor



Doreen Grobman and her project.
Shoctor photo.

is helping to continue the building of the grave, and therefore honour the deceased. The stones are also a sign to others that someone has visited the grave, and a sign of respect for the deceased. It is not the Jewish custom to leave flowers at a grave, so stones are used instead.

Another derivation of the practice comes from East European superstition as found in the plays of the Yiddish theatre, where spirits are thought to be in danger of coming unglued from their resting places and roaming the earth as dybbuks. In this case, the stones as well as the headstone help to weigh the spirit of the deceased down, and keep them attached to their resting place and at peace.

Doreen got the idea from a visiting relative at the funeral of her

fellow North Battleford resident Ruth Bondar, z'l. Ruth's daughter Wendy brought with her to the funeral a handful of stones she had bought on Ebay, the US website, which had Stars of David engraved on them.

Doreen thought this was a wonderful idea, but that there had to be an easier way to obtain these stones. After the funeral, she obtained samples of different stones from local landscape suppliers and tried a few different ways of writing on them. Finally, she came up with the idea of using a blue Sharpie permanent marker to draw on white quartz landscaping stones, and this seemed to work the best.

Her design echoes the colours of the flag of the State of Israel, which came into being the year Doreen was married and moved to North Battleford. A friend in her senior's complex buys the stones for her, and brings them to her apartment. Friend Cory Felber supplies her with the markers, and her daughter Cheryl Shur and husband Wayne transport them out to the Cemetery, where they are kept in a special box for anyone visiting to use.

So far, Doreen has decorated approximately 10,000 stones, working on about 50 at a time when she has free time at home in her small apartment. She hopes that this idea will spread outwards from Edmonton and take root in other places in Canada.

Last year she sent a handful to Toronto with a friend, and another handful to Vancouver with former Edmontonian Marcia Gailiunas, to take to the cemetery to try to get Vancouver's Jewish Community interested in the project.

Doreen hopes to continue working on this project for at least another five years, but is hoping to recruit protégés



Doreen working on the stones. Shoctor photo.



The finished product – Stones of Remembrance. Shoctor photo.

to continue this important work here and across the country. As she says, “Anyone can do it. Why sit at home doing nothing, when you could be doing this?”

This isn't all that keeps Doreen busy, however. She has an active social life, plays Mah Jong regularly, and has even decorated paperweights in a similar manner for her Mah Jong buddies. She belongs to Beth Tzedec Synagogue, a Conservative Egalitarian Congregation in Edmonton's West End. Coincidentally, this congregation was given two of the Torahs from the old North Battleford synagogue when

it closed down, as well as some of the textiles used there.

Many Edmontonians know Doreen from her long involvement with Hadassah, both in North Battleford and here in Edmonton. For many years she has given psychic readings to individuals and groups in order to raise money for Hadassah-WIZO projects in Israel. She did the same with artwork that she produced back in North Battleford after taking outreach classes from the University of Saskatoon for seven years. She feels that it is both her psychic or spiritual awareness as well as her art background which have led her

to this project.

Doreen boasts that she has gotten lots of positive comments about the project. She admits she likes to stand near the box of stones at the cemetery and listen to people talk about them. As she likes to remind people, “Let the light of love surround you, and the Love of G-d protect you.” This is a maxim she uses in her psychic readings, as well as when she places a stone on a grave. She says that if you repeat this often enough, good things will begin to happen to you. Having met Doreen and learned about all the good she has done in the world, I definitely believe this.

SISTERHOODS & SYNAGOGUES

Continued from page 7

for women called *The Red Tent* (named after Anita Diamant's novel, which was the first book discussed at the club). As to why the Rabbi decided to start a women's-only book club, Goldblatt surmises that, “she felt women would be more inclined to speak out if there were no men in the group, since men's voices tend to dominate in mixed gender groups.” The book club has continued even though Rabbi Bat Joseph left Edmonton after serving here for 11

years. Today, the Temple has another new, female Rabbi, Carmit Harari.

A lot has changed over the years in terms of the roles of women in synagogues. Today, they have come out from the kitchens and are onto the administrative boards that operate the congregations. Whether or not there is an organized “sisterhood” in a shul seems to matter less when women are able to be involved in more and more aspects of general congregational life, whether because of size or philosophy.

CORRECTIONS

The following people were inadvertently left off the Necrology list for 2008-09:

The Necrology runs from Sept 1 – August 31.

Edith Kay, z'l

The following individuals were inadvertently left off the Membership List for 2008-2009:

Alan Lyons - Individual

Dr. Harry

BY DR. STERLING HAYNES

Dr. Harry Weinlos in front of
the Misericordia Hospital,
1936. PA77.156



On a sunny August day in 1938 I was walking and humming a Winnie the Pooh bear song “Nobody knows tidily palm” and not paying much attention. I was a fat little kid and I’d been swimming in Edmonton’s south side pool and my eyes were red from chlorine.

Not seeing well and being awkward, I fell scrambling in a public rock garden and broke and dislocated of my left elbow.

My eleven-year-old chum, Bill, saw that my arm looked “kind of funny” and ran across the street and got a solid citizen, to drive us home. Each bump in the gravel road made me to let out a howl.

At home, my mother phoned Dr. Harry Weinlos and his nurse told her to take me to the Misericordia Hospital. Dr. Harry, a prominent Alberta surgeon, would see me when I got there. I was told not to eat or drink anything. Mother called a cab and took me to the hospital.

This was the first of many meetings with this compassionate man. Over the years, Doctor Harry became my doctor,

mentor and hero.

At the ‘Mizz’ hospital Dr. Harry appeared. He was a short, stocky man with a small black moustache, a kind face and large, strong-looking hands. He wore small rimless glasses and behind the lenses he had bright, twinkly brown eyes.

“Well, Sterling you have a painful looking elbow. We’ll have to take an x-ray and then Dr. Adamson will put a mask over your face and put you to sleep with some smelly stuff – it’s called a 1-2-3 gas and you’ll waken with your elbow fixed and no more pain. It’s just a 1-2-3.”

“Thanks Dr. Weinlos, I’ll try and be good but my arm really hurts.”

Even now I remember Dr. Adamson putting the mask over my face and dripping on some 1-2-3 liquid on the cloth mesh as I struggled to breathe. Years later I was to learn that the metal mask composed of layers of cloth was called a Schimmelbusch mask. The liquid, called a 1-2-3, dripped onto the mask and was composed of chloroform, alcohol and

ether. This very potent mixture quickly put me under.

I remember waking up in the kid’s ward vomiting and smelling ether but my left arm didn’t hurt. My fracture dislocation had been relocated. The next day Dr. Weinlos sent me home in a cast with a sling. There was no physiotherapy in Edmonton at that time, the only the rehabilitation was provided by Dr. Harry.

After eight weeks Dr. Harry cut my cast off by hand with giant plaster cutters and I was told I could use the sling at home when necessary. My left elbow was locked in the flexed position and wouldn’t bend much. I went to Dr. Harry’s office on the 4th floor of the Birks building twice a week for treatment. At home, I was told to carry a gallon pail of water weighing 10 lbs. with my left hand for 20 minutes twice a day. I wouldn’t disappoint Dr. Harry!

The treatment at the office consisted of Dr. Harry putting his unshod heel in my left arm-pit and pulling on my forearm. I can remember hollering and trying to hold back tears. Dr. Harry persisted and always gave me 25 cents for hurting me. After four months, Dr. Harry had pulled my arm straight. I had acquired \$4.00, a vast sum for a 10-year old kid in those depression days.

When my dad offered to pay Dr. Harry for looking after my arm, he refused. Instead Dr. Harry said he might ask my dad for a few special favours. My dad’s dental office was in 321 of the Birks building at 104 Street and Jasper Avenue – just a floor lower than Dr. Harry’s.

The first of many favours Dr. Harry asked of my dad was to fix the abscessed teeth of Harry’s indigent patients. After a few weeks dad called a halt to Harry’s request as the number of dental abscesses doubled each day and my dad’s office was over-run with homeless people. Then Harry asked that on cold

nights these same people be allowed to sleep on the floor in the dental office and use the office lavatory.

Soon the Birks building manager noted that the third floor toilets were a mess in the morning. The “super” of the building then had a talk with dad and Dr. Harry’s request to ‘house the homeless’ in dad’s office was stopped. This last episode strained their friendship slightly.

Finally my dad wrote Dr. Harry a cheque to cover his professional fee for fixing my arm. Dad figured that paying Dr. Harry would be cheaper in the long run.

Over the years I would see a friendly Dr. Harry in the Birks building. He always asked about my school work and if I was going to be a doctor. He seemed disappointed when he found out I was only interested in hockey, baseball and tennis.

I got to know Dr. Harry much better when I was 18. One summer night in 1947 I started vomiting and developed pain in the right side of my belly. Again Dr. Harry came to the house and diagnosed appendicitis and drove me in his car to the “Mizz” hospital for surgery. At this time, Dr. Harry’s ancient Ford Model A flivver made it across the high level bridge. Dr. Harry then arranged for Dr. Adamson to give me an anesthetic – this time it was a spinal. Under anesthetic Dr. Harry took my appendix out and I made a complete recovery. Two days later Dr. Harry walked me to the street car stop on 109 Street where I caught the street car for home and he took the tram to his office in the Birks Building. Dr. Harry’s model A Ford had conked out completely.

My dad was glad to pay Dr. Weinlos’ professional fee immediately – ‘with no sutures attached’. I made a rapid recovery.

Dr. Harry and I became friends and we often met by chance, usually in the Birks Building. He always wanted to

know what I planned to do. He was disappointed, when I was 21, to learn that I was going to become a colonial officer in Northern Nigeria and had signed on for three years. He tried to dissuade me and recommended I apply to medical school but my mind was made up and I sailed on the *Empress of Canada* in 1951 to Liverpool and then on the *MV Accra* to Lagos, Nigeria. Three years later, after being invalided home from Africa recovering from Weil’s disease and having lost 80 pounds, I realized that Dr. Harry was right and I applied to Medical school at the U of A in 1954.

Dr. Harry always encouraged me during the preclinical years at med school when I would see him in the Birks building. Later I was a clinical clerk assigned to the Misericordia Hospital, Dr. Harry took over the teaching of my clinical rotation. Although, he was a surgeon, Dr. Harry had patients on the paediatric and medical wards. He allowed me to do many deliveries of his patients in the obstetrical unit, but under his supervision. His surgical practice was huge and he had a varied group of general surgical patients as well as orthopedic, urological and plastic surgical cases. Dr. Harry was a whirlwind and many times we were making rounds at 7am or midnight. Dr. Harry was one of the few doctors who looked after the native people from the reserves in West Edmonton and Hobbema. Neither the colour of a person’s skin nor his race meant anything to Dr. Harry; everyone was treated equally with respect.

The nuns at the Misericordia hospital loved him – he was their favourite doctor. He had the ability to get around their rules and religion and get his own way from the staff. Some of his poor patients at home were dehydrated and he used to beg the Mother Superior

at the Mizz for IV fluids so he could give intravenous fluids to them in their own beds. The nuns always saw to it that he had free meals in the doctor’s dining room and a place to sleep in the doctor’s lounge; they even did his laundry and ironed his starched wing collars that he always wore. He was a bachelor and seldom went home.

When I interned at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton Dr. Harry had many surgical patients on the wards. He always phoned me to help him with rounds even when I wasn’t assigned to his surgical service. He was a fabulous teacher who always related everything to the well being of his patient. His reasoning was sound and he was knowledgeable and kind – I loved him.

One very cold night in February Dr. Harry phoned me to go on rounds at the

Continued on page 12



Drs. Harry & Morris Weinlos JAHSENA Archives photo.

DR. HARRY*Continued from page 11*

“Alec”. When I arrived on the surgical floor, after visiting hours, Harry’s hands were red and cold looking.

“Where are your gloves Dr. Harry?”

“When it turned cold I gave them to one of my patients. I ran out of gas and had to walk to the hospital – all the way down Kingsway against that north wind. But I’m OK now, apart from having cold hands I missing my supper.”

“We better go to the hospital cafeteria and get you some supper now. You didn’t run out of gas again Dr. Harry?” I was calculating that Dr. Harry didn’t have any money for supper or gas. I had just cashed my monthly hospital intern’s cheque and had \$20.00 in my pocket.

“Here Dr. Harry – I’ll lend you 5 bucks for supper and gas. You can pay me back sometime.”

“That should get me back to the “Mizz” after we have supper and we do rounds and thanks Sterling.”

It was the end of June when Harry repaid my loan. We met at Mary Samuels’ house for a massive Jewish feast honouring Max Wershof’s appointment, a Canadian ambassadorship to the UK and Dr. Harry’s humanitarian way of practicing medicine in Edmonton. My wife and I were included as Harry’s friends and my mother and dad were long time friends of the Samuels. I was also being honoured having just passed my LMCC [Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada]. This was a national examination allowing me to practice in Canada.

Supper was sumptuous but Dr. Harry was an hour late. I thought Dr. Harry might have run out of gas again and walked over from the “Mizz.” When he arrived all the guests had already finished the main entre. Harry bustled up to the table and was obviously famished and apologized for being late between



Dr. Harry Weinlos, 1942. PA77.156

mouthfuls.

“I’m so sorry to be late Mary,” said Dr. Harry. The gefilta fish was marvelous and the soup was a little cold but...”

“What did you say Dr. Harry – you are impossible? You arrive late at my dinner party and then complain the soup is cold.”

“I am so sorry Mary – excuse my boorishness. Thank you very much for having me.”

We had a rollicking evening – entertained by Dr. Harry’s stories set on 97th Street in Edmonton or at the ‘Mizz’. Max’s eloquent tales of working in European embassies was fascinating. As the evening closed Mary Samuels told very funny Yiddish stories that her father had brought to Alberta from Europe.

But I can never forget Dr. Harry and his humanitarian ways. This is the last time I would see Dr. Harry.

Dr. Harry never sent bills out for all the work he did but he would mention his fee to patients after they were back working. Patients paid their medical bill when they could. Edmontonians loved him for his kindness and altruism.

Medicine was in the Weinlos family blood in Europe and Canada. Manuel graduated from Vienna’s medical school and was Harry’s oldest brother. Manuel was killed serving in the German army medical corps in World War I. The remaining family came with their parents, Leah and Isaac, from Austria in 1921. The five brothers and sisters were educated in Austria. The two youngest, Harry and Morris were educated in Edmonton. Dr. Morris graduated from medicine at the U of A in 1929. Dr. Harry, the younger brother graduated a few years later. Dr. Harry and his brother Morris were among the first to enlist in the Canadian Medical Corp in September 1939. They both served in WW II ‘til 1945 and were discharged both with the rank of Major.

While both Weinlos brothers were serving overseas, Dr. Morris recalls the following story:

“Harry was hit in the head by a piece of German shrapnel during a Nazi bombing raid in Yorkshire. But he had the wound patched up quietly and never did report the incident. That was his attitude; he just didn’t want to bother anyone.”[1]

Debby Shoctor, archivist, for the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta sent me a copy of a postcard written by Dr. Harry and mailed in 1941 from England to Master Billy Lewchuk in Spirit River, Alta. The article was labeled “a postcard from beyond.”[2]

This postcard, according to the archives, was delivered to Billy’s sister in

Spirit River, 67 years late, in February 2008. Dr. Harry had treated Billy for a broken leg and other injuries at the Misericordia Hospital but was mobilized for the army overseas before Billy had recovered. Dr. Harry wrote and asked Billy in his postcard: "Hope that when this card reaches you, you will be much healthier and stronger." Unfortunately Billy succumbed to his injuries. Dr. Weinlos did not find this out "until after the war, at which time he wrote a heartfelt letter of condolence to the Lewchuck family, which they still have." The postcard Dr. Harry mailed from England during the war is in the Jewish archives.

The Edmonton Sun newspaper, in 1960 [4] reported that Dr. Harry made a housecall to a rural farm. "The farmer was paralyzed by acute appendicitis but would not leave his abode because the plowing was not finished. Dr. Weinlos, it is reported, got on a pair of overalls and finished the plowing." [3] He then drove him to the Mizz and took his appendix.

Dr. Harry provided free medical services to The O'Connell Institute, The Alberta Protestant Home, and The Good Shepherd Home for orphan children; voluntary services to The Beulah Home for the poor [which he helped to establish]; voluntary service since 1928 to orphan children in the Atonement Home. He was active in

the Edmonton Community Chest and provided voluntary services to the Home for Ex-Servicemen's Children according to the Edmonton Sun [4].

Dr. Harry and his brother Dr. Morris were rewarded by Edmonton city fathers when they named the Weinlos district of Edmonton in their honour as well as a primary school in Edmonton called the Weinlos School. This school provides instruction for students with mild and moderate cognitive deficits. This is Edmonton's tribute to Dr. Morris Weinlos and to Dr. Harry Weinlos, who were outstanding city surgeons and teachers.

Dr. Harry was my doctor, mentor and friend for twenty years. His happy ways and compassion made him well loved by me and his many patients in Northern Alberta.

I wish to acknowledge help and support of the City of Edmonton archivists and Debby Shocter, archivist for the Jewish Archives & Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta. Mrs. Florence Weinlos Soifer, Dr. Harry's niece of Edmonton, was full of facts and stories about the life of Uncle Harry. Her help and encouragement was exceptional.

*Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne

[1] Taken from the *Edmonton Journal* – August 27, 1977.

[2] Taken from the *Jewish Heritage website* – Winter of 2008

[3] Taken from the *Edmonton Sun* – July 30, 1960

[4] Taken from the *Edmonton Sun* – July 30, 1960

DONATION CARDS

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

SYMPATHY

To the family of Leon Warhaft, z'l, from the Board of JAHSENA, and from Marshall and Debby Shocter.

To Dr. Ted and Gloria Aaron, on the death of Celia Baltzan, z'l, from Sondra Schloss.

To Leon and Betty Kagna, on the death of Celia Baltzan, z'l, from Sondra Schloss.

MAZEL TOV

To Danny and Connie Zalmanowitz on their 30th Anniversary from Debby and Marshall Shocter

On Display

At the JCC...

Currently on display at the JCC you will find an exhibit of items pertaining to Jewish Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, including photographs from our collection. If you would like to donate a book, document or a piece of memorabilia to add to our collection, call 780-489-2809. Please stop by the JCC and view these items on display opposite the office in the glass display case.

NEW MEMBERS:

JAHSENA would like to welcome the following new members:

Halley Girvitz, Calgary, AB

Brian Sorokin, San Diego, California

Ted Power, Edmonton, AB

Clarice Switzer, Edmonton, AB

Blanche Gorasht Shindell,
Bellevue, Washington

David & Robin Marcus, Edmonton, AB

Freda and Marvin Abugov,
Edmonton, AB

Archives of Terror and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register

Among the 35 items of exceptional documentary heritage added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, during the meeting of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme 28-31 July in Bridgetown, Barbados, the following are related to Human Rights:

ARCHIVES OF TERROR (PARAGUAY)

The Archives of Terror are official documents of police repression during the 35 years of Alfredo Stroessner's dictatorship. They also contain supporting evidence of Operation Condor activities, part of a campaign of political repressions involving assassinations and intelligence operations launched in 1975 by the right-wing dictators of the Southern Cone of South America.

TUOL SLENG GENOCIDE MUSEUM ARCHIVES (CAMBODIA)

Photographs and documents from the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, the former S-21 prison and interrogation centre where more than 15,000 people are believed to have been held and only a handful survived. The archive contains photographs of over 5,000 of these prisoners, as well as "confessions", many extracted under torture, and other

biographical records of prisoners, prison guards and officials in the security apparatus

REGISTRY OF SLAVES OF THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN 1817-1834 (BAHAMAS, BELIZE, DOMINICA, JAMAICA, ST KITTS, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND THE UNITED KINGDOM)

This registry was drawn up to help control the illegal import of slaves to the Caribbean after Great Britain abolished the trade in African slaves in the islands in 1807. Enslaved Africans made up the great majority of transatlantic migrants from the 15th to 19th centuries and the Trans-Atlantic slave trade remains a sensitive subject with many ethical implications.

ARCHIVES IN THE NEWS

***Paraguay.** On 14 October, human rights activists were given the archives of the Ministry of Defense in Paraguay, dating the 1930s through the 1980s. Press reports say the records will likely shed light on the victims of Operation Condor, a coordinated campaign by South American governments in the 1970s and 1980s that targeted leftists and dissidents. Photographs of the basement archives can be seen at <http://www.daylife.com/photo/0cce4e0dG9NB>

***Guatemala.** 359 pages of original planning documents, directives, telegrams, maps, and hand-written patrol reports from the records of the Guatemalan military intelligence service were introduced in December in a Spanish court hearing a genocide case against former Guatemalan president Gen. Efraim Rios Montt and others. The submission is significant because the Ministry of Defense, in a previous case in Guatemala, had claimed it could not locate the documents. The documents may be seen at <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB297/index.htm>

***Argentina.** In another court case, this one in Argentina, is reviewing documents from Paraguay's Archivo del Terror, an archives of police records that is managed by the Paraguayan Center on Documentation and Archive for the Defense of Human Rights (CDyA). The case uses documents from Paraguay to illuminate the working of an Argentine program to kidnap leaders of an opposition group living in exile in Mexico, showing the international importance of archival documents. For further information on the Archivo del Terror, see <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/CDyA/index.htm>

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

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



**TO ORDER CALL
780-489-2809**

Edmonton Jewish Newspapers Now Available Online

Edmonton's major Jewish Newspapers are now available online in pdf format. Thanks to a grant from the Community Spirit Program of the Alberta Government, JAHSENA was able to microfilm and digitize most of our Jewish Newspaper collection.

The papers digitized include *Our/Your Community News*, which existed from 1958 to 1980; *The Jewish Star, Edmonton Edition*, which was published in Calgary and existed from 1980-1990; *The Edmonton Jewish Times and Record*, 1987-1991, *Edmonton Jewish Life*, 1991-2006; and the *Edmonton Jewish News*, 1991-present. These newspapers are a great resource for researchers of our community, and having them accessible online makes them even easier to use.

Before the Jewish community here was of a very large size, local events were

covered by the *Western Jewish News* out of Winnipeg. Started October 6, 1926 as a weekly, the last issue appeared July 1, 1987. This newspaper covered Jewish community events in Winnipeg and the western provinces, and was all this community had until 1958, when the Edmonton Jewish Community Council started production of *Our or Your Community News*. Winnipeg still has the *Jewish Post and News*, which never really covered anything outside of the city.

Another Jewish newspaper, the *Alberta Jewish Chronicle*, existed for a brief period of time in Edmonton, but few copies are extant. The same goes for the *Jewish Express*, published briefly by Federation in the 1990s. The actual copies of the newspapers will still be held in the Archives, but because of the fragile nature of newsprint (it is very acidic,

and deteriorates very quickly), it was felt that microfilming was needed for preservation purposes, and digitization for access purposes. Now the collection will be available for general use over the internet, and individuals will no longer need to handle the fragile originals.

To access this collection, please go to www.jahsena.ca and search our databases. The newspapers are on the Alberta In Word database of the Archives Society of Alberta and can also be accessed from their website at www.archivesalberta.org.

The documents are linked to their fonds-level descriptions by year, and can be viewed as pdfs. If you cannot currently view pdf documents on your computer, please follow the link on the database and download your free version of Adobe Acrobat Reader.

JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

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

Eulogies of Michael Zolf, Hymie Sorokin and Dan Goody.

21, 8 mm films of Edmonton Jewish Community events, 1970-1980, donated by Donna and Herb Freedman.

8 Plaques Awarded to Norman Dlin, z'l, donated by Deborah Dlin of Shreveport Louisiana.

Edmonton Jewish Community Newspapers, donated by JNF.

Miscellaneous text, donated by Ansel Mark including the minutes of Edmonton Histadrut.

"Where is Home for the Jewish Writer?" Edited by Ellen S. Jaffe and Lil Blume, Pinking Shears Publications, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 2009.

30 cm. misc. text, 1 video tape, blueprints, 6 large framed items, and 250 photos, donated by the Beth Israel Synagogue.

39 photos and negatives of a 1974 Edmonton Hadassah-WIZO dinner, donated by Mamie Sorokin.

1 cm text relating to Edmonton Hadassah-WIZO Woman of the Year, donated by Miriam Cooper.

Edmonton's West Side Story: The history of the original West End of Edmonton from 1870, by Lori Yanish and Shirley Lowe, 1991. Donated by Dan Kauffman.

Photos of the AGM, the Edmonton Historical Board Awards and the City of Edmonton Achievement Awards, donated by Hal Simons.

50 books on miscellaneous Jewish subjects, donated to the JCC Library, by Doreen Albert.

Edmonton's West End, donated by Dan Kauffman.

A Dictionary of Jewish Names and their History, by Benzion C. Kaganoff, unknown donor.

Ca. 1500 Photos of Talmud Torah, donated by the Talmud Torah Society.

8 Hadassah-WIZO pins, one gavel, one Hadassah Cookbook, 1 cm text, 250 photos and 8 negatives of the Shaw/Newhouse/Nozick families, donated by Norma Nozick.

20 plaques; 22 books, 8 prints, 11 photo albums

(ca. 2200 photos) and 30 cm text, relating to Jake and Ruth Superstein, and the Superstein and Grabow families, donated by Don Superstein.

Ca. 100 books on Jewish subjects, donated to the JCC library by Herschel and Lois Sorokin.

Jewish Seniors Drip-in Centre Volunteer Recognition Book, 1951-2008, edited by Jane Karstaedt, 2 copies.

Four U of A Green and Gold yearbooks, 1961-1964, one Parkdale High yearbook, 1955, donated by Eric Weil.

Oral History Interview with Doreen Grobman, by Debby Shoctor.

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

JAHSENA HAPPENINGS



Presenter Lil Blume and JAHSENA President Jini Vogel at the Family Stories Writing Workshop, November 1st. Shoctor photo.



JHSSA President Sheldon Smithens and Presenter Debby Shoctor at the JHSSA AGM, October, 2009. Debby was invited to be the guest speaker, giving a talk on Abraham Shnitka, King's Printer. JHSSA photo.



Help Us Preserve Our Past for the Future!

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

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number _____ Email: _____

Visa/MC Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

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