

ירשה

Heritage – Yerusha
Summer 2015

Adar 5775

VOLUME 17, NO. 3

www.jahsena.ca



HERITAGE

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

INSIDE



Growing
Up in
Round Hill,
Alberta

page 5



Memories
of My
Childhood
in Alliance,
Alberta

page 11



Limelight:
A Life
Around the
Theatre

page 12

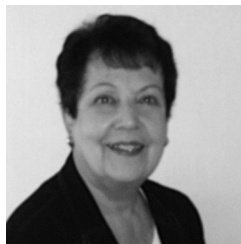
Miller General Store, Alliance, Alberta ca 1935



Provided by Ruth Nolan

Follow us
on Twitter!
@Jahsena

Read more about the Millers' life in Alliance on page 11



From the President,

by JUDY GOLDSAND

July 2015

Welcome to the Summer 2015 edition of *Heritage/Yerusha*. I hope you are enjoying our mosquito-free weather (at least it was at the time of writing.) The last few months have been a busy time for JAHSENA.

JAHSENA's Oral History Project is moving ahead well and a recent \$1500 grant from the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation will help us purchase better video and recording equipment so your stories will be well-documented for posterity. Many thanks again to the EJCCF for supporting this worthwhile project.

We extend heartfelt thanks to JAHSENA members and friends who volunteered during long shifts at the Palace Casino Sunday, June 28 and Monday, June 29. Income from the Casino is critical to carrying on JAHSENA's work of collecting and preserving our Jewish Community's memories. A special thank you must go to our Vice-President, Miriam Rabinovitch, who coordinated all of the tasks involved in running this Casino.

The Edmonton and District Historical Society launched its 19th annual week-long Historic Festival Sunday, July 5, with a program at the Edmonton Public Schools Archives and Museum, the former McKay Avenue School at 104 Street and 99

Avenue. This school is the oldest standing brick school in Alberta. The Alberta Legislature met on the top floor of the school before the Legislative Building was constructed. Also on site was an 1881 School House complete with chalk slates that students wrote on and a water bucket and dipper to wash hands. The Historic Festival Week featured tours and events hosted by more than 50 museums, historic sites, businesses and community organizations, open to the public during the festival.

JAHSENA's event in this Historic Week was a tour of Beth Israel Synagogue, Sunday, July 12. Beth Israel member Robin Marcus was the enthusiastic tour guide and engaged visitors with an overview of the history of Beth Israel and an explanation of many artifacts and religious symbols. We extend our thanks to Beth Israel for partnering with us for this tour.

Again we invite you to use our Archives to properly preserve your family's memorabilia - letters, papers, and photos - to make them available to future generations. While we would prefer to have original documents in the Archives, if your family wishes to keep them we will be happy to make copies for our files and return the originals to you.



Rabbi Yeamans and tour guests in the Beth Israel sanctuary,

ירשה HERITAGE

The Journal of the Jewish
Archives & Historical Society
of Edmonton and Northern
Alberta

PRESIDENT

Judy Goldsand

ARCHIVIST & EDITOR

Paul Gifford

TREASURER

Howard Davidow

SECRETARY

Hal Simons

VICE PRESIDENTS

Lawrence Rodnunsky

Miriam Rabinovitch

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

**Dr. George Goldsand, Jane
Karstaedt, Daniel Larson,
Phil Lister, Ken Wasserman,
Mel Wyne.**

PAST PRESIDENT

Jini Vogel

FOUNDING PRESIDENT

Uri Rosenzweig

GRAPHIC DESIGN

PageMaster

MAILING ADDRESS

JAHSENA,

10220-156 St. Suite 200,

Edmonton, Alberta, T5P 2R1

Telephone: (780) 489-2809

Fax: (780) 481-1854

Email: jahsena@shaw.ca

Website: www.jahsena.ca

Cemetery Website:

www.edmontonjewishcemetery.ca



#200, 10220-156 St. Edmonton, AB T5P 2R1 (780) 489-2809 jahsena@shaw.ca jahsena.ca

While JAHSENA's primary purpose is and will continue to be the preservation of community documents and artifacts, we would like to showcase some of the many community focused events and activities that form just as important a part of our mandate. And we have certainly had a very active spring. With the generous assistance of the Edmonton Jewish News, JAHSENA is distributing this edition of *Heritage* to the entire EJN subscriber list free of charge. By doing so, we hope to show some of the ways that JAHSENA is active within both the Jewish and greater Edmonton heritage communities.

JAHSENA is funded largely by the support of our membership and tax-deductible donations, and it is with this support that we are able to continue to provide this array of activities. If you are interested in helping to support us, be it by volunteering some of your time, purchasing a membership, or even just coming to visit the Archives, please contact us by any of the above contact options. A membership will entitle you to a year's (3 editions) subscription to *Heritage*, updates on the Society's activities and events, voting rights at our Annual General Meeting in October, and eligibility to join our Board of Directors. As our membership year expires at the end of August, now is the perfect time to get involved in the upcoming year.

We hope that you enjoy the articles in this edition of *Heritage*. We are always interested in hearing feedback from the community, so please contact us with any questions you may have. With your support, we can truly preserve our legacy, *L'dor v'dor*.

Sincerely yours,

Judy Goldsand
President
JAHSENA

Paul Gifford
Archivist
JAHSENA



From the Archivist's Desk...

by PAUL GIFFORD

Summer 2015

It has been a busy, and thankfully productive, spring for JAHSENA. As Judy has outlined in her President's report, we have been busy around the community. Judy and I took a trip to Fort Edmonton Park to visit the HB Kline Store and to speak with the costumed interpreters. You may recall from our last edition of *Heritage* that JAHSENA has partnered with the Park the past two seasons to pay for the wages for a costumed interpreter, ensuring that the Kline store has proper summer staff. I can say with full confidence that this has been a beneficial partnership, as Judy and I were both very impressed by the knowledge and enthusiasm of the staff. Last year's Hebrew Letters program has been continued, with the aim of teaching children how to write their names in the Hebrew alphabet, and there have been discussions with Park staff to expand into new activities. Make sure to take a trip and visit while the Park is in season.

In early June I attended the annual Association of Canadian Jewish Studies conference in Ottawa, where I was asked to present on a panel with several other Archivists working at Jewish Archives from across Canada. Our topic was on the challenges, and successes, of bringing Jewish cultural and historical knowledge to the greater public, both within and without the Jewish community. It was heartening to see that, on the whole, my colleagues have been very successful in reaching out and engaging their respective communities, and I was able to get some valuable ideas to implement here at home. In particular, I noted that outreach to schools and universities

was regarded as an important part of this goal, and that they had had great success in these partnerships. Earlier this spring, I had a very productive meeting with several teachers from the Edmonton Talmud Torah with regards introducing more local history into the curriculum for students in coming years. The Edmonton Jewish community has a rich history, and it's essential that future generations learn about, and celebrate, this history. Indeed, the Edmonton Talmud Torah was the first in Canada! To this end, JAHSENA has donated a copy of each of our documentaries on local Jewish history to the school for use in future history classes, and there has been discussion around having the older grades come on a field trip to visit the Archives and do work on a project of some sort, and perhaps having me visit to give a talk to the students. I have also spoken with several professors at

the University of Alberta with regards the possibility of giving a guest lecture about our Archives and the contributions the Jewish community have made throughout Edmonton's history.

While on that topic, work on JAHSENA's new book is proceeding apace. Included later in this edition of *Heritage*, we have excerpted one of the biographies, that of Arthur Hillier. This should give you a sense of what to expect from the completed work. We have finalized the list of people that will be included in the final publication, and we are well on our way to a publication and widespread availability sometime in early 2016. Once we get to that point, the book will be available for purchase in several locations, tentatively including several independent bookstores in Edmonton. I look forward to sharing the results with you all!



Interpreters at the Kline store at Fort Edmonton Park, JAHSENA Archives

Rural Beginnings: Early 20th Century Jewish Life in Small Prairie Towns

For the winter 2015 newsletter, we are excited to present the first piece of a multi-part series on Jewish life in small Western Canadian towns during the twentieth century. In between the years of the late nineteenth century to the start of the First World War, millions of Jews immigrated from Eastern and Central Europe to North America. Some of them moved directly to Western Canada while others spent time in the United States before settling in the Canadian West.

This series of articles will explore the lives of some of the earliest Jewish families to settle in different parts of the Prairie Provinces.

We hope that their stories will provide a textured account of their diverse experiences while highlighting some of the common threads that unite the experience of Jewish families living in small towns across the prairies.

In the Winter edition of *Heritage*, we published the first in our "Rural Beginnings" series, exploring the early life of Jews in small towns across Western Canada. In this edition, we move on to Part II, looking at life in Alliance, Alberta and Round Hill, Alberta.

Growing Up In Round Hill, Alberta

BY HAROLD (HAL) SIMONS
(ORIGINALLY, SIMOVITCH)



The Town: Located 14 miles south of Tofield, Alberta, off Highway 14. In 1930's and 1940's the population was about 150 people.

Our parents, Sam and Rose Simons, had 6 children: Alfred (Alfie) (Born May 12, 1918; passed away July 12, 2003 at age 85), Morris (Born September 3, 1920; passed away November 16, 2010 at age 90), Sarah (Born February 25, 1923), Harold (Hal) (Born October 8, 1928) and the Twins, Norman (Born August 20, 1931) and Sidney (Born August 20, 1931).

Sam Simons (Simovitch) owned the Round Hill Trading Company. It was a general store that provided more



The Simons boys: Norman, Noots, Hal, Sid and Sam, JAHSENA Archives

than the basics in groceries, fresh fruit & vegetables, meat, dry goods and hardware. Next to the store was a large building filled with 100 pound sacks of flour (a full boxcar brought in by rail, unloaded and hauled from the train station by horse and wagon). Another near-by round building, in the summer, housed blocks of ice stacked and insu-

lated with sawdust. The store operated an Esso gas pump in front of the store as well as other oil products housed in two large oil storage tanks located near the train tracks. The store was also the official Massey-Harris machinery agency.

There were three general stores;

Continued on page 6

RURAL BEGINNINGS

Continued from page 5

ours, Bresden's (just a block away), and Bosmans (about 3 blocks away.) Behind the Bresden store, they would let us watch them hang a hog up on a kind of tripod, butcher it and then dip it in a large barrel of hot water (to help remove the bristles) before cutting the carcass into halves or quarters.

During the depression years, our store, and others, provided credit for many families who lived from paycheck to paycheck, from crop to crop, or from slaughter to slaughter. It was based on trust and empathy, and a number of families were unable to repay their bills. The families of the store-owners bore the brunt of the many thousands of dollars that were never paid. Some farmers brought in produce or meat as a gesture of repayment, but some families never did pay their bills and would avoid us at any town events. So the merchant was on the hook.

Our home was located about a quarter of a block behind the store. It was a one-storey home, with three small bedrooms and six kids. And we always had a dog, usually a retriever. We had a coal and wood stove (with a water tank at one end of the stove) in the kitchen and a "pot-bellied" stove to heat the living room. During many cold winter nights, our blankets froze to the wall, because there was little or no insulation. In those days, sawdust was used for insulation, and over the years it settled down to the bottom. It wasn't until their 25th wedding anniversary that our parents purchased a refrigerator to replace the old icebox.

In our back yard, we had a chicken coop (with live chickens), a coal shed and a two-seater outdoor toilet. Most people used newspapers or magazines for toilet tissue. A special toilet treat, was the paper tissues from mandarin oranges imported from Japan before Christmas.

Since our mother helped Dad in the store, they hired 2 successive live-in home-helpers, French Canadian ladies from Legal, Alberta. They did the laundry, kept the house clean and bathed me and my younger brothers, Norman and Sid. They were treated like family.

Although our parents had very minimal formal education before coming to Canada from Russia, they were adamant about the importance of education. As an example, even though they had no musical background or training, they purchased a piano when Morris and Sarah were very young, long before owning a refrigerator. Sarah and Morris were given piano lessons. I learned how to play piano, by listening to both Sarah and Morris practicing, but never did have lessons.

There were two schools in town – a one-room high school for up to 20 students, and a two-room combined elementary junior high school for about 40 students. In summer, some students walked to school from their farm homes. In winter, many of them came by horse and sleigh. The horses had to be tied up and provided with hay and water, behind the school. Because the pails of water froze over, it was necessary for the students to go out a few times each day to refill them.

Many town students brought their lunch to school, especially if there was a school program. Times were very tough and one image that has never left me was the sandwiches brought to school by two of my classmates. They consisted of home-made bread slathered with lard which had been sprinkled with salt to provide flavour.

I was very anxious to go to school, so one day, at age 5, I ventured into the school to attend grade one. The teacher very gently instructed me to go home and wait until I was 6 years old. The next year, she became my grade 1 teacher. After leaving Round Hill in 1941, the next time I saw her was at



Hal and Sam ca. 1941, JAHSENA Archives

her brother's funeral in 2001. She was in her late 90's and when I went up to her, she recognized me and said "Hello Harold".

The only "field trips" were literally out into a large open field encompassed by some larger trees and many varieties of small bushes. Every summer, this large open space, immediately south of the town baseball diamond, attracted Gypsy visitors. Another annual event was the fall baking and garden fair sponsored by the schools. All the kids helped plant their family garden. In the fall, when every vegetable was at its prime, we dug them up, selected the "best" of each variety, washed them and arranged them artistically to be judged. Most of us (with our mother's help or supervision) baked a cake or cookies to be submitted for a prize. Our mother made sure that each of her children learned how to cook and insisted that some of us learn how to sew. She was a wonderful cook and we all remember smelling her freshly baked cinnamon rolls when we came home from school.

As a kid I experienced a traumatizing event when some of the older boys tossed me into the local swimming hole called the collieries. The collieries were large, deep excavations created as a result of strip mining. Following the drainage from the melting of winter

t Story Project

spouse/partner

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
3b.

parent

Draw lines to indicate
house

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
4c.

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
4d.

children

Grandchildren, use an
indicate their parents.

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
5c.

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
5d.

This area is for spouse's and children's family details. Give each an identity number and use more paper if needed.

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:

Forebears

Family History Chart
JHS BC 2000 Jewish Community Family History

Grandparents

paternal grandfather

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
1a.

paternal grandmother

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
1b.

maternal grandfather

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
1c.



father

Parents

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
2a.



self

If more than one spouse, add details here

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
3c.

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
3a.



t story Project

paternal grandfather

maternal grandmother

name:

birth date:

birth place:

married to:

date/place:

death date:

1d.

mother

name:

birth date:

birth place:

married to:

date/place:

death date:

2b.

spouse/partner

name:

birth date:

birth place:

death date:

3b.

Use this sidebar to include information about your siblings, If needed, use more paper.

Sibling 1

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:

Sibling 2

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:

Sibling 3

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:

Sibling 4

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:

Descendants

Family History Chart

JHS BC 2000 Jewish Community Family History

Your Family

*If more than one spouse, add details here.
Use sidebar for family details*

self

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
3c.

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
3a.

Your Children

Draw lines to indicate parents
Add more boxes and paper if needed and draw lines to indicate parents if more than one spouse

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
4a.

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
4b.

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
4c.

Your Grandchildren

To include more grandchildren or great-grandchildren, use additional sheet. Please draw boxes to indicate

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
5a.

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
5b.

name:
birth date:
birth place:
married to:
date/place:
death date:
5c.

snow as well as rain, the collieries filled with water. Since I couldn't swim, it was a terrifying ordeal finding myself in a pool of water that was so deep. Fortunately some of the boys jumped in and pulled me out. This experience has been etched in my memory and it took many years to shed my fear of swimming.

Our school always held Christmas concerts consisting of plays and music. Even though we were Jewish,

our parents always encouraged us to participate. It should be mentioned that we were also encouraged to investigate and learn about the different religious practices (Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Pentecostal, etc) of our friends and neighbors.

In the Round Hill area, there were people from countries across Europe, as well as from other parts of Canada and the United States. We were, therefore, exposed to many different

cultures, foods and languages both at the store and at social gatherings. As a result, Alfie and I, in particular, besides learning Yiddish and Russian from our parents, managed to learn and use a few languages. We became quite fluent in Ukrainian and Polish and were able to communicate, by speaking Norwegian and Swedish.

My father sold our store and the family moved to Edmonton in 1942.

Memories of my Childhood in Alliance, Alberta

BY RUTH NOLAN



My father, Israel Miller, was born in 1892 in Kapulia, Belarus. As a young boy he left his mother and sisters (and also pogroms, persecution and imminent military service) to emigrate to America. Initially joining two older brothers in New York, he worked in the sweatshops of the garment industry. This experience made him think that if he had to work in slave-like conditions, he might as well go back to Russia. So when an opportunity arose to go west, he took it and homesteaded in Nebraska with a cousin. However, after enduring a freezing winter living in a sod hut and suffering crop failure, he was enticed by the Canadian Government's offer of land, for \$10, to anyone willing to settle in western Canada. For someone who had not been allowed to own land in Russia, Israel loved the idea of owning his own land. He borrowed \$10 from his cousin (he later paid it back) and headed to Canada.



The Miller family. Back (L to R): Stan, Dad, Evelyn and Clarice. Front: Ethel, Ruth and Mona, provided by Ruth Nolan

Arriving in Alberta in 1914, Dad chose land suited to mixed farming near the future town site of Alliance, 140 miles southeast of Edmonton. The land was cleared, crops planted and a house built. In 1917, Dad, who never drove a car, travelled by train to Edmonton. When he had to stay overnight, he was referred to the home of Yetta and Morris Nelson. There he met Yetta's sister, Esther Waterman. Dad was smitten! They were married in January, 1918 in the Nelson home. From the outset, Dad and Mother established good rela-

tions with the townspeople. We were the only Jewish family in town but we did not feel out of place and participated fully in all the town events. Our parents joined the local organizations and we children attended the local school, taking part in all activities, including Christmas concerts. One of my sisters recalls overhearing a woman say, "But they don't even go to church!", but on the whole we did not experience any anti-semitism.

Around 1925, Dad hired workers to

Continued on page 15

Limelight: A Life Around the Theatre



Arthur and Gwen, JAHSENA Archives

The following is an excerpted chapter from a collection of biographies being written by our Archivist, Paul Gifford. Look for the complete collection published next year.

Arthur Hiller's parents, Harry and Rose (nee Garfin) were born in Poland. Harry was an informally trained nurse who wished to train as a doctor, but who was repeatedly denied entrance into higher University studies in Poland due to his Jewish ethnicity. As was the case with so many, the Hillers were drawn to the promise of a new and more successful life in North America, one in which racial intolerance would hopefully prove to be less of a barrier to prosperity. Initially settling in New York, they were drawn west by tales told by Rose's brothers, who had first arrived in Montreal. While working as newsies on the Canadian Pacific Railroad they encountered the young

town of Edmonton in the prairies, and grandly describing the "gold paved streets" of Edmonton, the Hillers soon moved West.

When they had first arrived in New York, Harry had set up shop as a barber to help support the extended family members for whom he was responsible, including Arthur's two older sisters, and upon arriving in Edmonton Harry once again plied this trade, though he would later go on to expand and open Harry's Exchange Shop, a store for clothing and used musical instruments, across the street from the barber shop.

Arthur Hiller was born in November of 1921, the youngest of Harry and Rose's three children. As he would later recall, his parents wanted a son very badly, and after a ten year gap between his older sisters they decided to try again. While they were not wealthy, Arthur remembers his parents being

extremely generous to any who came calling, and that he was completely unaware of the Great Depression while it happened. He recalls his parents on many occasions giving food to those who came calling, even strangers, and that they forbade him from getting a job during his youth, Harry exclaiming "There's plenty of time to work, now is for fun."

While not an especially religious family, the Hillers culturally embraced their Jewish cultural identity, and Arthur's parents were instrumental in setting up a Yiddish theatre company, and were founding members of the Peretz Shul. The latter served as an after school class for Jewish youth, wherein they were taught Yiddish and learned the great works of Yiddish literature such as Shalom Aleichem. Arthur remembers that the Peretz Shul was a notably more open and liberal centre for learning

than the more “Orthodox” Talmud Torah, and that they were not taught any Hebrew during their classes. This liberality extended beyond the children’s education, as Arthur remembers his parents playing host to visiting political and cultural figures. Arthur’s parents felt that religious decisions should be up to him as well, and so he was given the choice of whether or not to be Bar Mitzvah, a choice which Arthur ultimately declined (though he was quick to note that his classmates and teachers at the Peretz Shul threw a grand surprise party for him on his thirteenth birthday instead)

By the age of 8, Arthur was helping to build and put together sets for the Yiddish theatre performances, and by eleven he was participating in bit parts, often wearing a great fake beard. It was during this time that he developed a love of photography, something which he shared with his father. In 192_ Harry bought Arthur a Kodak Duo 620, and he was soon taking snaps of all and sundry, going so far as to set up a small darkroom for processing photos in his basement during the early ‘30s.

Arthur’s love of the theatre continued on as he grew older, and he attended Victoria Composite High School, where he continued to perform in plays throughout his high school days. Struck with the idea that the theatre wasn’t something at which he could make a living, he declined a theatre scholarship to Ohio State University at the end of his high school days, and instead enrolled in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the depths of the Second World War. As he relates it, “My friends were fighting and dying, and I couldn’t sit aside.” While he had hoped to serve as a pilot, Arthur instead found himself channeled into the navigator training program, and spent three years plotting directions and bent over charts. Miraculously, neither he nor any of his squad was lost during fighting. This would prove to be a close

thing, as the plane which they were serving on would be shot down the very next mission after they were rotated off of it. Despite the danger, Arthur remembers those years fondly, feeling lucky that they were fighting, as he puts it, in a clear “good vs evil” war.

After long correspondence during the war, Arthur married his childhood sweetheart Gwen (Pechet). He likes to relate that, at the age of eight, he first “proposed” to Gwen, writing on the blackboard of the Shul “I love you Gwen, signed Arthur.” While she was unimpressed at the time, their marriage proved to be a strong one, as after a brief stint in law school in Vancouver, Arthur and Gwen moved to Toronto for him to enroll in a Masters of Psychology, while she became primary breadwinner for a time.

Arthur’s later Hollywood career is well known, with a long directing career including the Oscar winning film *A Love Story*; his service as President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Amnesty International, and many more organisations. But what is

perhaps less well known is Arthur’s continuing dedication to his home town. For decades, Arthur returned twice yearly to teach seminars and classes at his old high school, and he has remained a great supporter of the Jewish community organisations within Edmonton. Aside from monetary donations, he has been diligent at passing along information and photographs to the Archives (which was of great help in compiling this biography). Arthur fondly notes in an interview he undertook with JAHSENA that whenever he is in Edmonton he makes a point of visiting his parents’ grave at the cemetery, before driving by his still-standing childhood home.

While the Hillers may not have been an especially religious family, they exhibited the best characteristics of Jewish tradition, upholding the tenets of *tikkun olam*, and instilling a deep appreciation for culture and community in their children, a belief which Arthur Hiller has carried on with his involvement in, and dedication to, community life wherever he has lived. Arthur currently lives in Burbank, California.



Public Speaking Award from Victoria High, 1941, JAHSENA Archives

The Edmonton Jewish Community is invited to attend the

Ukrainian Jewish Encounter Exhibition

Created by UJE and co-funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, this multi-media exhibition offers an integrated narrative of the historical experience of these two historic peoples, side by side through periods of normalcy and crisis, shaped by cross-cultural influences, under diverse political regimes, over centuries. The blended story will be of particular interest for both Jewish and Ukrainian audiences, but also for a wider Canadian public.

The territory of modern-day Ukraine has been for many centuries the homeland of diverse and flourishing cultures, including one the most populous Jewish communities in Europe, whose presence on Ukrainian lands began about 2,000 years ago. A

segment of the exhibition focuses on the origins and remarkable growth of Hasidism on the territory of Ukraine, and two parallel displays treat the challenging transformations experienced by these two stateless peoples in the course of the “long nineteenth century” (1772-1914) – in the Russian Empire and under Austro-Hungarian rule.

This exhibition is presented in the belief that these two peoples have much to gain by appreciating their common historical experience in all its complexities – that despite periods of crisis and intermittent violence, Ukrainians and Jews have lived side-by-side for centuries creating and sharing enduring cultures that continue to inform their identities today.

The Ukrainian Jewish Encounter (UJE), a privately organized multi-national initiative launched in 2008 as a collaborative project involving Ukrainians of Jewish and Christian heritages and others, in Ukraine and Israel as well as in the diasporas. Its work engages scholars, civic leaders, artists, governments and the broader public in an effort to promote deeper mutual comprehension and solidarity between the two peoples.

The Exhibit will be open Monday through Friday, 9AM to 5PM, and additionally Thursdays from 7PM to 9PM, schedule subject to change. It is recommended that you call ahead to confirm at (780)809-3771

The St. John's Institute and the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter (UJE) are pleased to present an exhibition entitled *A Journey Through the Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter: From Antiquity to 1914*. The exhibition, open to the public, starts Tuesday, August 4, 2015 and runs through Tuesday, August 18, 2015, at St. John's Institute, 11024 - 82 Avenue, Edmonton.

The exhibit will be open Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm and, in addition, Thursdays from 7 to 9 pm.

RURAL BEGINNINGS*Continued from page 11*

manage the farming and, while we still lived on the farm, he opened a general store in town. Sadly, in 1933, not yet 40 years of age, Mother died of cancer. Our father now had the sole responsibility of overseeing the farm, managing the store and raising six children: Evelyn (12), Ethel (8), Stan (7), Ruth (5), Mona (4) and Clarice (18 months). A hired girl lived with us to help. Our home had a wood stove and no running water. Drinking water was carried from the town pump. Our toilet was an outhouse, and hand washing was done in a basin in the kitchen sink. Saturday night was bath night in a tub in the kitchen, with the youngest child going first.

Dad was strict, but fair and fun-loving. We learned ethics and morals and Jewish values from his examples. After school, all the children were expected to help in the store or go to music lessons, so there was little time to “hang around” in town. Although isolated from other Jewish families, our sense of Jewish identity was strong. I have fond memories of all the children sitting in his big bed Sunday mornings while Dad read the comics to us and sang old Yiddish songs.

At home, Jewish holidays were highlights. I particularly remember the High Holidays, marching with apples and flags on Simchat Torah and improvising costumes for Purim. We received Chanukah gelt and lit candles in the shiny metal Chanukiah designed by Dad and crafted by a local tradesman. We often had employees and friends sharing our festive meals. Dad was a great cook and we all enjoyed his specialties – latkes, baked fish, fried matzah, chicken soup and knaidlach. Our family initially tried to maintain kashrut, but with no refrigeration, only an ice box, and having to bring meat from Edmonton, it was extremely difficult. When in Edmonton, Dad

would sometimes go to the Beth Israel Synagogue or occasionally to a small shul in Rumsey, Alberta.

We had no car, but my mother’s family from Calgary, the Watermans, would often visit us and enjoy picnics and a taste of rural life. When they came, my father enjoyed having an opportunity to speak Yiddish. He also spoke Yiddish to an occasional Jewish traveler, or to the dentist, Sam Hardin, who came from Vegreville a few time a year.

Alliance had about 300 residents representing eight different national origins, four churches, a local doctor, a weekly movie and various stores, services and organizations. Dad served on the Board of Trade, the School Board and the IOOF Lodge. Stan was army cadet while Mona and I attended CGIT at the United Church. Our four-room school accommodated about 100 town and country students in grades one to twelve.

I must say I was an “outdoor gal” and enjoyed my childhood in a rural setting. However, Dad had promised our Mother that when all the children were older, he would move the family to live in a Jewish community. So, in 1944, we moved to Edmonton and enjoyed many friendships in both the Jewish and general communities.

Ruth later married pharmacist Harry Nolan and both were active members of Edmonton’s Jewish community.



Ruth Nolan

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:

MAZEL TOV

- To Miriam Rabinovitch on her special birthday, from the JAHSENA Board
- To George Goldsand on his special birthday, from the JAHSENA Board
- To George Goldsand on his special birthday, from Larry and Marielle Witten

SYMPATHY

- To Switzer family on the loss of their beloved husband and father Phil Switzer
- To David and Daryl Levine and family on the loss of their beloved mother, Rose Milner
- To Ruth Nolan and family on the loss of their beloved sister Ethel Allman, from the JAHSENA Board
- To Becky Fayerman on the loss of her beloved brother Aaron Shtabsky, from the JAHSENA Board
- To Cecille Shtabsky and family on the loss of their beloved husband and father Aaron Shtabsky, from the JAHSENA Board.
- To Mel Wyne, with best wishes for speedy a speedy recovery, from the JAHSENA Board

JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

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

Our thanks to the Jewish Federation of Edmonton for the donation of a commemorative coin marking the 100th anniversary of our sister city in Israel;

Dorren Jampolsky donated a number of pictures, records, and artifacts;

Syma Mann gave us a number of photographs from her mother's time with Hadassah;

We would also like to thank Rick Vogel for his donation of a new printer for the office, and our Archivist Paul Gifford for his donation of a large number of assorted office supplies;

As always, Sharon Abbott has kept a close eye on any articles about the community at large which might be of interest to us. Thanks, Sharon!

*Unfortunately, due to space issues, for the foreseeable future we will **no longer** be accepting donations to the Jewish Federation Library. Please contact Beth Shalom synagogue or the Jewish Drop In Centre if you'd like to donate collections relating to Jewish history or Judaism in general.*

*We **are** still accepting donations of books relevant to local family or organisational history. Should you have any questions about donations, please contact our office.*

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

"FROM PEDLARS TO PATRIARCHS: A LEGACY REMEMBERED" 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**

✂ 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).

- | | | | |
|--|-------|-------------------------------------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor | \$36 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in serving as a volunteer. | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 10220-156 St. Suite 200, Edmonton, Alberta, T5P 2R1