

ירשה

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HERITAGE

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

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Jewish Communities at Alberta Lakes Part II



Rae Miller, Betty (Griesdorf) Miller, Frieda Muhlstock, Lou Miller, Abe Miller, Seba beach, c. 1940's

This issue of *Heritage* contains Part II of Dr. Eric Schloss's article, *Jewish Communities at Alberta Lakes*. Dr. Schloss is a dermatologist and pathologist who has been involved in humanitarian work both at home and abroad. He has shared his expertise by teaching across Africa. Eric is a "bibliophile" who loves books and history. He has donated over 40,000 books to the University of Alberta and started the University's Canadian Literature Centre. A recipient of the Order of Canada, Dr. Schloss has served on the Jewish Archives' Board and has written several well-researched articles for *Heritage*.



From the Archivist's Desk

COLLEEN PAULL

2019

In April, I spoke at the Jewish Drop In Centre about the role JAHSENA plays in our Jewish community.

I was able to tell everyone that Abe and Rebecca Cristall have been credited as the first Jews to arrive in Edmonton in 1893. Also, that in 1906, 10 men founded the Edmonton Hebrew Association. In quick succession, Beth Israel Congregation, Talmud Torah Hebrew School and the Chevra Kadisha were also established. This information was taken from the publication, **The First Century of Jewish Life in Edmonton and Northern Alberta 1893-1993**. JAHSENA volunteers interviewed members of Edmonton's Jewish community and collected information and photos to use in publishing the book in 2000.

In 2016, a second book, **From Generation to Generation: Jewish Edmontonians as Heritage Builders**, was published, featuring stories about 25 noteworthy individuals. Again, this book was written and edited by volunteers with information taken from the JAHSENA Archives and the Provincial Archives.

JAHSENA also created two documentary films about Edmonton's Jewish community, **From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered**, in 2004, and its sequel, **Bittersweet Memories: The War Years**, in 2007.

We currently publish our newsletter **Heritage** three times a year, often with contributions from local authors.

For example, Dr Eric Schloss has written about the Jewish Communities at Alberta Lakes (being published in three parts) which is again highlighted in this edition.

I reminded the group that 2013 marked the opening of a major JAHSENA project, the building and furnishing at Fort Edmonton of a replica of the H B KLINE Jewelry Store. Every year, JAHSENA funds summer guides with special training to explain the Jewish artifacts and Jewish history to visitors to the store.

This is why JAHSENA exists. To preserve and protect the Jewish heritage of Edmonton and Northern Alberta.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

IT MEANS, DON'T THROW AWAY THOSE PAPERS!! AT LEAST NOT UNTIL YOU DECIDE WHETHER THEY FORM PART OF YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY.

JAHSENA wants to collect personal correspondence, diaries, scrapbooks, drawings, photographs, films, audio cassettes, videotapes, organizational materials, minutes from meetings or business records. We collect anything that an individual has created, used or received in his or her lifetime. These materials provide insight into the interests, occupations and life

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ירשה HERITAGE

The Journal of the Jewish
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Svetlana Pavlenko and Colleen Paull at JDIC April 9, 2019

FROM THE ARCHIVIST'S DESK

Continued from page 2
of an individual which contributes to the knowledge of a community.

I bet all of you have saved a bar mitzvah or wedding invitation, a letter from a relative or friend, postcards from Israel, donation or award certificates, newsletters/magazines from a Jewish organization or a booklet/program from an event, yearbooks, newspaper articles. All of you that have ever been on a Board – do you still have minutes from those meetings, photos of an event, invitations?

JAHSENA WANTS THESE! If you are planning to move, before throwing everything away please think of giving these to us. Without your contributions,

JAHSENA would not have the history of Jewish Edmontonians and the Jewish community to preserve for future generations.

We are a self-sustaining, independent organization, funded by monies from a casino every second year and membership dues. Your memberships and donations are vital to our continued existence.

Thank you so much for your contributions of materials, your monetary donations, your volunteering to staff our casinos or assist in the office, or any activity that helps add to the knowledge of Edmonton's Jewish community.

23RD ANNUAL HISTORIC FESTIVAL AND DOORS OPEN EDMONTON

JULY 1 -7, 2019

Museums, historic sites, businesses and community organizations in the greater Edmonton area have come together to host tours and events that allow a glimpse into our past and the impact it's made on today. The 2019 theme is LEISURE. To see all the events, please go to the website.

Website: www.historicedmonton.ca

JEWISH ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF EDMONTON AND NORTHERN ALBERTA (JAHSENA)

Doors Open Event: Leisure Time for our Seniors
THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1 – 3 pm (Free)

Our Parents' Home, 10112 – 119 Street

This visit will feature a brief overview and tour of a vibrant Seniors' Residence in downtown Edmonton. A thirty-minute historic film produced by JAHSENA will be shown, followed by refreshments. Visitors will enjoy the view of the city from the common room and outdoor terrace as well as a tour of some of the interesting facilities the Residence has to offer.

More information:
JAHSENA 780 489-2809



Barb (Paul) Swanson dropping a ski
c. 2003



l-r Dolgoy girls; Rebecca holding Leah, Sarah holding
Danielle c. mid 80's



Lisa Miller waterskis on one ski
c. 1998

Jewish Communities

at Alberta Lakes Part II

By Eric Schloss

LAKE WABAMUN

Many Edmonton Jewish families have enjoyed vacation time at Lake Wabamun (meaning mirror in Cree), approximately 44 miles (70 kilometres) west of Edmonton, just south of Highway 16. Historically, development at the lake was stimulated by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (precursor to the CNR). In the early 20th century, commercial fisheries used the railway to carry fish by boxcar to locations as far away as New York City and whitefish varieties were the most popular commercial items. TransAlta Utilities has also been prominent with a large base near the southern end of the lake and has strived to be environmentally aware. However, pollution and habitat destruction for many years was

inevitable but did not prevent the growing number of cottage owners at the lake. A further problem was the CNR freight train derailment and heavy spill of fuel oil in August 2005 but measures to clean the effects of the spill have been largely successful.

Seba Beach on the western side of the lake was the most popular site for lake vacationers. **Abe and Betty Miller** were likely the first of the Edmonton Jewish community to purchase a cottage at this summer village. They acquired their initial property on the lakeshore in the mid or late 1930s and spent summers there with their children, Tevie, Helen and Leon. Lisa Miller told me that her grandfather, Abe, chose Seba Beach over other lakes since he thought it was prophetic that Seba spelled back-

ward is Abes! The Miller family has continued at Seba Beach to this day. The original cottage was renovated by **Helen and Cecil Paull** for use with their children, Barb, David and Michael, and subsequently by their families.

Mr. Justice Tevie Miller and his wife, **Arliss**, purchased their own cottage which was used yearly by their children, Cathy (Dolgoy), Josh and Lisa and then with their families. Lisa and her husband Farrell Shadlyn frequent the lake on a regular basis. Josh and Michelle purchased their own cottage on Seba Beach and upgraded it in 2017. Abe's brother, Dr. Lou Miller, his wife Rae, and their children, Joe (Dr. Joe Miller) and Joyce (MacDonald), also had a cot-



The Shugarman Cabin Seba Beach c. 1950's

tage on Seba for 10 to 15 years mainly in the 1940s.

After acquiring their property on Seba Beach in the mid 1940s, **Ben and Molly Shugarman** spent yearly summers there with their children Maurice, Miriam (Sheckter), David and Selma (Linzer). The cottage was appropriately named the "Sugar Shack". Before Maurice left for Pigeon Lake after marrying Molly (Perler) in 1960, many of his Edmonton friends would visit him at Lake Wabamun. Barry Vogel and Dr. George Goldsand have fond memories of their times there and vividly recall the dance hall, although George confessed that he did not like seeing the fights that erupted from time to time (common at most beach dance halls in Alberta). Miriam and her husband, David Sheckter, eventually purchased their own cottage on Seba Beach which they used with their children during summers for approximately 10 years starting in the mid-1960s. Much later, Selma



l-r Betty Clair Kohn, Ken Wyman, Leon Miller, ? Gary Griesdorf, Maurice Shugarman ?? Jaeger boy, David Shugarman, Miriam Shugarman kneeling her 10th Birthday c. 1948



Dave Sheckter with Roberta c. 1961



Selma (Shugarman) Linzer Seba Beach c. 2010



l-r Judy (Sheckter) Swenson, Mark Sheckter, Roberta (Sheckter) Hanson, Lianna (Sheckter) Rose at Seba for Miriam's 80th, 2018.



Selma at Seba, 1986

Continued on next page



Joe, Ron & Norma Ritch Seba Beach
c. 1946



Joe Ritch's certificate for 10 shares of Seba Beach c. 1947



Gene, Thelma, Leon
Rollinger with Sol in
front c. 1949

and Jack Mayer renovated the original Shugarman cottage and for a few years lived there almost year-round, often visited by their children. The cottage was eventually sold in 2015.

The Ritch family, comprised of Joe and Bernice with their children, Alex, Gertie (Zivot), Norma (Grobman) and Avron, had a cottage at Seba from 1944 to 1952. Norma still has possession of a certificate for 10 shares of Seba Beach acquired from her father (hopefully still valid)!

For many years, from approximately the mid-1940s to the mid-1950s, **Gene (Jean) and Thelma Rolinger** rented a cottage next to the Ritch's and later further down the beach. Their children, Sol, Leon and Gaye, enjoyed their holidays at the lake and Sol has very fond memories of his time there as a child. He told me his dad would go back and forth to the lake on the CNR as the roads were bad and initially they did not have a car.

Jack Sheckter had a cottage at Seba mainly in the 1950s. He was proud of his two boats, one of which

was a Crisscraft large cruising boat he called "Sweater Girl". The other sleek transporter racing boat was purchased from the famous band leader, Guy Lombardo, who had been a boat-racing champion from London, Ontario. **Henry and Millie Singer** briefly occupied this cottage, followed by **Larry and Tulane Rollinger** who maintained it with their children in the 1960s and early 1970s. **Milt and Mamie Sorokin** and their family brought a trailer which they parked next to the Rollinger cottage for several seasons. **David and Evelyn Kline** also had a summer cottage at Seba Beach for a few years earlier in the 1950s.

Land close to Seba Beach was also acquired by members of the Edmonton Jewish Community. **Dr. Morris and Merle Weinlos** purchased 40 acres in the early 1950s on top of the hill directly overlooking Seba Beach and the CNR station. Morris had bought the property from the CNR agent. They enjoyed many summers there with their daughters, Lynn, Honey and Valerie.



Bernice Ritch at Seba Beach c.1949



Grandfather William Laskin & Lynn at Seba Beach July 21, 1948



Lynn and Honey Weinlos c. 1963



Merle and Dr. Morris Weinlos at Seba Beach c. mid 1950s

Initially, Merle's parents, William and Sarah Laskin, would join them at the lake and Mrs. Laskin would continue to come after her husband died in the mid-1950s. Merle's brother, Shim Laskin, and his wife Shirley also visited frequently with their four children.

Lynn Weinlos told me her dad, Dr. Weinlos, a well-known surgeon, would often perform necessary surgery on the large kitchen table to remove embedded fish hooks from neighbours or residents at the lake. Merle and her mother, Sarah, would also utilize the facility (after cleaning the table) for baking strudel for the Hadassah bazaar. At one time Dr. Weinlos even installed a bomb shelter. His generosity extended to offering the cottage to the nuns from the Misericordia Hospital for their frequent use. Lynn Weinlos still maintains the property although she says it is rarely occupied. Lynn's uncle, **Dr. Merv Laskin**, and his family also had a Seba Beach cottage which his son Kim still uses.

Other sites on Lake Wabamun have also been choice locations. **Dr. Anne Fanning** and her husband **Mr. Justice Mel Binder** have had a cottage at Aspen Beach on the lake for the past 20 years but apparently Mel still has not put a toe in the water. **Grant Vogel and Lemore Alima** with their two children have maintained a cottage on Rosewood Beach since 2007 and **Gaby and Debbie (Katz) Sonogo** with their three children have resided on another adjacent beach on Lake Wabamun.

Sailing has always been popular at Lake Wabamun, more so than at most other central Alberta lakes. **David Panar**, and also **Sheldon**



Gaby & Debbie Sonogo, in back Sean Sonogo, Mike Paull, Lisa Miller c. 2003



Anne Fanning sailing 2017



Mel Binder & grandson Sam at Wabamun c. 2007

Continued on next page



Nathaniel, Grant & Barry Vogel at Lake Wabamun c. 2008



Ellie Vogel, Ross Goldsand, Nathaniel Vogel, Sam Goldsand c. 2009



Marvin and his Dad, Hymie Weisler, in front of Gull Lake cottage, early 1960's

Chandler, were frequent and avid sailors with their boats. Sudden storms or squalls were not uncommon on the lake. **Elexis** and I with our little son Jay J, around 1979 or 1980, were invited on Sheldon's sailboat. Everything was idyllic until a major squall came up with dark clouds and strong winds and we thought we were going to end up in the water. Thankfully, Sheldon was an expert sailor and we survived, but even he was very concerned at the time.

GULL LAKE

Other Alberta lakes were also popular, such as Gull Lake, a short distance west of Lacombe and Ponoka and which was originally named after the large population of seagulls found near the lake. The most populated area on the lake is at Aspen Beach which is situated in one of the first Provincial Parks in Alberta. The Village of Gull Lake is Alberta's oldest summer village, located on the south shore. It is approximately 10 miles by car from Lacombe to Gull Lake on Highway 12.

Hymie and Marie Weisler started spending summers at Aspen Beach, Gull Lake, in the mid-1940s

with their young children Marvin and Shelly. The cottage was maintained in the Weisler family until approximately the early 1980s so Marvin and Donna's children, Nancy, Lauren and Richard, enjoyed the lake during their childhood. Their cottage was appropriately named "Weis Lair". Marvin told me he built his own boat in a shop class in junior high which he frequently used at the lake.

Early vacationers at the lake were **Mo and Emily Lieberman** with their son Sam (Mr. Justice Sam Lieberman) and daughter Ethel (Dr. Ethel Fried). Other Edmonton families having cottages at Aspen Beach included **I.R. and Lottie Friedman** and their sons David and Harry, **Jack and Marjorie Cristall** with their daughters Donna (Cipin) and Roz, and **Ted and Hazel Cristall** with their children Danny, Bob and Mimi.

OTHER LAKES

Other Alberta lake sites include Lac Ste Anne off Highway 43, 75 kilometres northwest of Edmonton. The lake and area have an interesting history. Lac Ste. Anne was first called Wakamne (God's Lake) by the Nakota Sioux, and Manitou Sakhahigan (Lake of the

Spirit) by the Cree First Nation. The Indigenous people in the area had a legend of a large monster that lived in the lake and the Hudson's Bay Company eventually renamed the lake, Devil's Lake, in honour of the "monster". The village of Lac Ste. Anne housed the first permanent Catholic Mission in Alberta which was established in 1844 when it was renamed Lac Ste. Anne in honour of the Catholic saint. In 1859, the first three Grey Nuns came to Alberta and the Mission. The village eventually grew to a population of over 2,000 from the original 30 Metis families in the area. Father Lacombe also came to the area in 1852 but left for St. Albert in 1861.

The area has been famous for pilgrimages, the first being in 1889. Pilgrims continued to come to the lake from all over North America during the last week of July for the Feast of St. Anne. Currently 30 to 40 thousand people now attend the annual pilgrimage. Several members of the Edmonton Jewish community (although not Jewish pilgrims) have had cottages at Lac Ste. Anne, mainly on Ross Haven Beach which is located on the north shore of the lake.



Pauline Fox with Robert, Amy, and Susan Culham with Leonard and Dale Culham in back, mid 1990s

Dale and Susan Culham acquired a cottage on this beach in 1980 and enjoyed leisure time there in both summer and winter for many years until Dale's tragic early death in 1998. Susan and her family maintained the cottage and their son Robbie later lived at the lake for some years and built log cabins for other lake residents. The property is still used by Susan and her family. **Barry Slawsky** also established a cottage on Ross Haven in 1980 near the Culhams. He upgraded it and his family used it for many years, finally selling the property in 2017.

Les and Lorraine Edwards maintained a summer cottage at Alberta Beach on the southeast shore of the lake for several years until Lorraine's early death. **Louis Friedman**, brother of I.R. Friedman, also lived at Alberta Beach for a long time.

One would have expected Sylvan Lake, just west of Red Deer, to have been a major vacation destination. On occasional visits there as a child, hives were a relatively frequent complication (much more often than at other lakes such as Pigeon or Wabamun). The skin rash

(hive-like) is now better known as "swimmers itch" and is due to an allergic reaction to tiny lake water parasites. Hopefully this is much less frequent today.

The **Norman Loomer** family, in the early 1940s, often attended Sylvan Lake. **Dr. Elliot and Dena Gelfand** and their children had a cottage on the north shore of the lake which they shared with Elliot's sister Karen and her husband Morley Sklar of Calgary from 1975 to 1989. They then moved to Keir Cape on Pigeon Lake in 1990. Sylvan Lake was also popular as a dance hall destination as Paul Perry (father of P. J. Perry) and his orchestra played there for many years. It was much more elegant than the log cabin dance hall near the central pier at Ma-Me-O Beach, Pigeon Lake.

Peter and Violet Owen kept a cottage and acreage on the smaller Edmonton Beach (Spirit Lake), 50 kilometres west of Edmonton just off Highway 16, from approximately 1980. Their daughter, well-known Edmonton sculptor, Susan Owen Kagan, has in more recent years used the cabin as a studio. Susan has been particularly delighted with the bird life on the site such as frequent blue herons. She says her parents would often take a raft out on the lake in later afternoons for socializing and drinks with their neighbours and friends. Peter and Violet had originally met at Gull Lake when Violet was visiting with her aunt and uncle, the Weislars, and Peter saw this beautiful girl on the beach in her bathing costume and instantly focused his attention on her. The rest is history!

Lake Miquelon, south of Camrose, is close to Round Hill where the **Simons (Simovich) fam-**

ily lived until the 1940s. Hal Simons told me that he and his brothers and other family members would often enjoy time at this lake. In 1956, our Camrose High School graduation party was held there, but at night so the lake was never visualized. It has since become a provincial park but has been infrequently used since some have descriptively labelled the lake as the "algae capitol of Alberta".

In 1963 **Dr. Henry Mandin**, my medical school classmate, became engaged to Kathy Freifeld (cousin of Ron Wolch and Bob Aaron) and our class graduation party was held at her father David's cottage on the lakeshore of Wizard Lake, south of Calmar and north of Pigeon Lake.

During university, many students including members of the **Jewish Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity** occasionally attended dances at Lakeview Hall near South Cooking Lake east of Edmonton on Highway 14.

Some proposed lake developments were not successful. Around 1951, **Joe Shoctor** and Edmonton Eskimo football player, **Tom Cleary**, planned a beach development at Dried Meat Lake southeast of Camrose to be named Tillicum Beach. Some nearby residents I knew built houses on the beach, but the development unfortunately was not successful, and the lake was plagued by poor water, and lived up to its descriptive name (Dried Meat)!

YOUTH CAMPS

Jewish communities throughout Canada have established youth camps mainly at regional lakes. For Alberta youth, a popular Jewish summer camp was the Young Judea camp at Chestermere Lake just east of

Continued on next page

Calgary. **Dr. Bernie Adler** has fond memories of his experience at the former Young Judea camp at Sylvan Lake when he was a teenager. The Pine Lake B'nai Brith Riback Camp east of Red Deer and Penhold was opened in 1956 and has thrived to this day.

Jewish camps in B.C. have also been popular such as Camp Hatikvah (Canadian Young Judea) on Lake Kalamalka next to Vernon. It was originally established in 1937 and covers 40 acres of land. Many youth (including our son Jay J) attended Camp Miriam (Habonim Dror Zionist Camp) on Gabriola Island close to Nanaimo for sessions as young teenagers.

OTHER LOCATIONS

Many lake destinations outside of Alberta have also been popular. Those originally from Winnipeg often frequented Lake Winnipeg (e.g. Gimli Beach), Falcon Lake, or Clearwater Lake in Manitoba or at many areas in the Lake of the Woods at the Ontario border. Rocky Mountain destinations including hot springs such as Radium and Fairmont, plus Lake Windermere, Emerald Lake and Lake Minewanka have also been favorite spots, as well as Jasper area lakes such as Maligne and Pyramid. In B.C., the Okanagan Valley was a prominent summer destination, initially mainly Penticton, but in more recent years, Kelowna and Vernon on Lake Okanagan where some Edmontonians have retirement or second homes. Osoyoos, near the U.S. Washington border, was also a choice location and where **Kenny and Esther Samuels** spent parts of summers for several years. Other areas in British Columbia



Camp B'nai Brith Shabbat service around the flag pole, c. 1968

such as the Sunshine Coast and the islands off Vancouver Island have also been popular destinations.

In Saskatchewan, the springs and mineral spa at Manitou Beach near Watrous made it a favorite holiday destination for many Edmontonians, particularly in the 1930s and 1940s. It has been referred to as the "Dead Sea" of Canada. **Dr. Harry Saslow** has fond memories of vacation time there with his parents, **Jack and Katie Saslow** and his grandparents, **Jacob and Hinda Baltzan**. The Baltzans, on their arrival in Canada in the early 20th century, initially resided at the Lipton Jewish Colony in southern Saskatchewan before moving to Edmonton. Watrous was approximately a two-hour drive northwest of the Lipton Colony and was a favourite spot for its many residents including the **Jampolsky family**.

Lake Waskesieu, north of Prince Albert, was a desirable vacation area and contained the iconic Grey Owl Trail to the famous naturalist's cabin. Ron Baltzan always spoke glowingly and fondly of his vacation time there as a teenager with his cousins from Saskatoon. **Dr. David Baltzan** and his three sons (all

of whom became medical doctors) had four separate cottages on the lake. Ron was doubly related to his Saskatoon relatives as his father was a brother to Dr. Baltzan and his mother was a sister to the doctor's wife, Rose (Cristall). **Dr. Earl Ghitler** also spent a great deal of time at the lake as a youth and **Dyanne Lyons** told me her parents from Prince Albert maintained a cottage there for many years.

Dr. Jerry Grobman said he and his family in his hometown of North Battleford often went to Cochin Beach on Jackfish Lake as did the **Bondar family**. Many others, originally from Saskatchewan, likely attended other beaches and lakes in that province.

Members of our community originally from Toronto or Ontario locations have often turned up their noses at Alberta lakes as they were used to the pristine lakes in Ontario, such as in the Muskoka region, Lake Huron, Lake Simcoe and many other areas.

Moe and Sandy Litman have enjoyed summer vacations on Lake Simcoe for many years. Sandy's family from Toronto first purchased a cottage there in 1969 and it has

been used throughout the summers since that time. The area was originally restricted to Jews, but in 1926, **Mrs. Rose Dunkelman** (1889-1949), the wife of the founder of "Tip Top Tailors", purchased a hundred acres of beachfront land on Lake Simcoe and, eventually, after the initial restrictions were circumvented, 30 cottages were established. In view of the success against the restrictive covenant, the beach was named Balfour Beach in honour of the Balfour declaration which was obviously a perfectly appropriate designation for the area. Ben Dunkelman, the son of Rose and her husband, was an Israeli war hero in the 1948 Israeli War of Independence. He was the main recruiter across Canada for volunteers in the war when he spoke at the old Talmud Torah in Edmonton and recruited Dave Panar, Hymie Klein, Stan Miller, Norman Dlin and others. The beach has since been integrated and many Jewish citizens continue to have cottages there. Moe told me that High Holiday services have frequently been celebrated on the beach.

Happily, there has been no apparent documented history of restrictive covenants on Alberta beaches and lakes, however restrictions and discrimination against Canadian Jews desiring a beach vacation were common in Ontario cottage country, Manitoba lakes and B.C. vacation areas until the 1950s. Visible signs, not uncommonly displayed particularly in eastern Canada, proclaimed "no Jews or dogs allowed". It is ironic today that the sole persisting restrictive covenant officially bans dogs from most Alberta lake beaches, (although it is often not strictly enforced).



Jacob and Nina Baltzan (foreground) Watrous, 1933



Running Water at the Paull cabin c. 1985



Trudy & Danny Singer, Original Town Store, Seba, 1949



Cecil Paull's 75th, Samara, Alex, Adam, Cecil, front Jared, Dena c. 2004

Our Lady of the Rocks

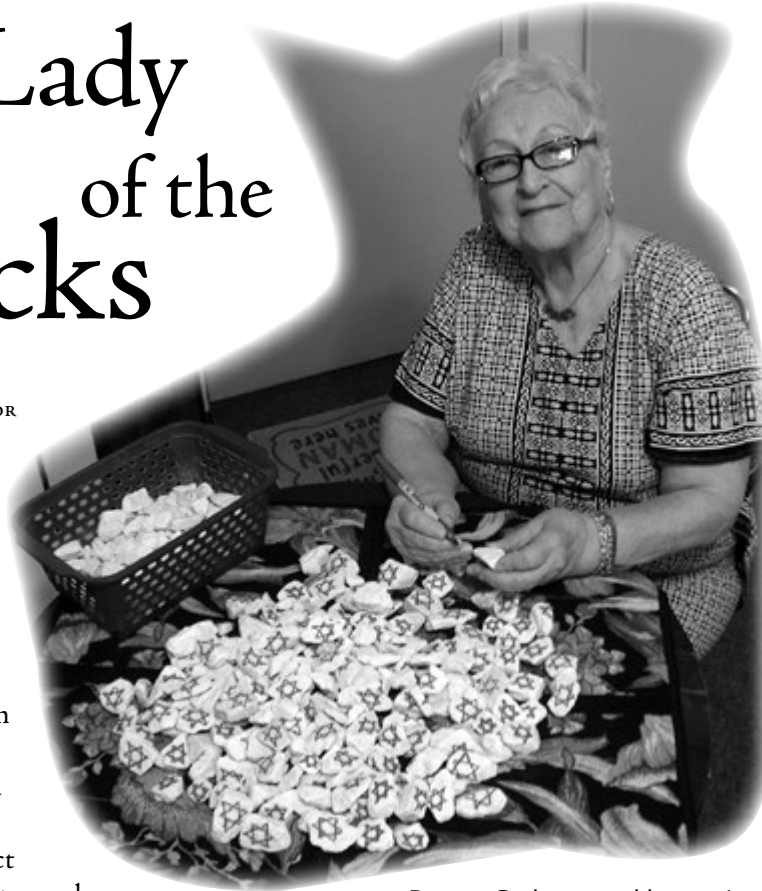
BY DEBBY SHOCTOR
2010

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



Doreen Grobman and her project.
Shoctor photo.

stone atop the gravestone, the visitor 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 to continue this important work here and across the country. As she says,



The finished product – Stones of Remembrance. Shoctor photo.

“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 belonged to Beth Tzedek Synagogue until its recent closure. Beth Tzedek donated the Torah they received from a North Battleford synagogue to Rabbi Kunin to take to a new home in Indonesia.

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.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP NAMES

Our apologies to the following members whose names were missed on the 2018-19 Membership List. Every member is important to JAHSENA:

PATRONS

Jack Chetner
Ted Power
Barry Schloss
Rick & Nikki Vogel

BENEFACTORS

Sondra Grosh
Moiria Sacks
Larry & Marielle Witten

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MAZEL TOV

- To Dr. George & Judy Goldsand on the occasion of the wedding of their granddaughter, Hayley, from Aaron & Jean Oshry; the Board of JAHSENA.
- To Alvin & Sue Winestock on the occasion of the wedding of their granddaughter, Alexa, from Aaron & Jean Oshry.
- To Dr. Cyril Kay on from Aaron & Jean Oshry on receiving an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree.
- To Dr. George & Judy Goldsand on their 60th Wedding Anniversary from Aaron & Jean Oshry; the Board of JAHSENA; Michael and Colleen Paull.

SYMPATHY

- To Dr. George & Judy Goldsand and Family on the passing of Essia Sloutska from Alvin & Sue Winestock; Aaron & Jean Oshry; the Board of JAHSENA.
- To June Simons & Family on the passing of Hal Simons from the Board of JAHSENA; Michael and Colleen Paull.
- To Jan Joseph & Family from the Board of JAHSENA; Michael and Colleen Paull.
- To Paula Globerman, Graham Usher & Family on the passing of her parents from Michael and Colleen Paull.
- To Rhonda Eidelman & Family on the passing of Marvin Eidelman from Michael & Colleen Paull.

A GRATIFYING WINTER EXPERIENCE

BY MARCIA BERCOV

What do you like to do in the winter? Escape to Florida or Arizona for some sun? Take a cruise around the Caribbean or hang out in Hawaii? For me, the answer is to join CAARI which is the Canadian and American Active Retirees in Israel. It is a JNF program for retired people that takes place January and February in Israel.

The program has several components: touring the country, a speaker's forum, and community service which takes place in Tel Aviv. In addition, there are Forest Days when CAARI works in different JNF forests.

Many of us have contacted JNF to plant trees in celebration of a special occasion, or in memory of family or friends. Well, for me, one of the most meaningful parts of the CAARI experience has been the privilege of working in forests planted by people like you and me. Usually once a week, CAARI has a Forest Day. JNF Foresters bus us to an area, hand out work gloves, tools, and explain what to do. We can be trimming underbrush to help prevent the spread of fires or helping to rebuild a stone wall in the manner in which it was originally constructed hundreds of years ago. One time our group

cleared an area covered with low growth, revealing two picnic tables which had been totally hidden. The Foresters told us that many Israelis come from the cities to have the opportunity to get away into park areas to enjoy nature.

Sometimes CAARI picks oranges for Project Leket, with this fruit being distributed to families in need.

The orchard, on part of a large farm outside of Tel Aviv, was purchased by a lawyer who has all the produce grown there distributed to charity.

So, how does this all happen? It's all organized by the team of Susan Horwitz and Neil Eisenstadt, Directors of the program. Susan came originally from Pennsylvania, and Neil's family left upstate New York for Israel some years ago. Neil is a licensed guide with encyclopedic knowledge of just about everything and a good sense of humour. The third member of the team, a most important one, is our driver, Zaharia. He stays with the group for the entire time. His family came from Yemen and he's a great dancer.

Where do we live? In hotels – no cooking or housework the entire

time. Traditional Israeli breakfast in the morning to start each day.

Who are the CAARI people? Much like you and me, some Jewish, some not, mostly retired, and all with a love of Israel. Some also have children and grandchildren or other family members who live there. They come from different areas of the U.S., many from the east coast. Most of the Canadians come from the east, many from the Toronto area.

So, what about the community service? When and where and how often? Well, there are a few options – some people choose volunteering at a rehab hospital, while others go to elementary schools to help students in grades 4, 5 and 6 with their English language studies. A few of us volunteer at the Tel Aviv Botanic Garden, working in the seed room or weeding. We usually go about four days a week, depending on the touring schedule.

How long does the program last? That varies, with several options ranging from two weeks to the full six weeks. You can start at the beginning or join later and choose the length of time you wish to stay.

What about the Speakers' Forum? A wide range come throughout the program – journalists, au-



Tel Aviv Botanical Garden c. 2018



Painting pictures at Ein Hod c. 2018

thors, politicians, film makers and ordinary people with interesting stories. One year a farmer from Northern Israel gave a talk about his olive trees. He told us how, at first, he produced only olive oil, and then he started making cosmetics using the oil, and eventually sold soaps, creams and shampoos.

SOME TOURING HIGHLIGHTS:

Last year CAARI visited the artists village of Ein Hod. Everyone living there must be an artist; visual artists like painters or sculptors, or musicians. Our group was invited to the studio of Ziva Kainer. Ziva provided paper, charcoal for the preliminary drawing, and other paper and paints for the final one and we all completed a piece of art. Some people, myself included, hadn't done this for years. We all enjoyed seeing each other's work.

In contrast, CAARI also visited Beit Ruth, for girls who are at risk and can't live at home.

We visited Shimon Keinan, who makes shofars. He uses horns from a variety of animals and finds them on his extensive travels. He

showed us how he drills the horn to create the sound.

Another day, we went to the Guide Dog Centre and met some inspiring people, including the lady who, with the help of her own guide dog, gave us a tour. When she finished and the dog was no longer in service, she took off his "work" harness and we could pet and play with him.

Then there was the Chocolate Seminar at de Karina Chocolates, where each person received a little kit for making and decorating chocolates. There were little candies and other decorations on the table, along with plastic squeeze bottles of different kinds of liquid chocolate. This was a very popular activity.

We went to Agmon Hula to see birds. We saw hundreds of cranes as Israel is on the migration route.

So, this gives you a little idea about CAARI. Come and join us.

Next year in Jerusalem!

JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

These items have recently found their way into the archives:

Five albums, approximately 1,300 Edmonton Hadassah WIZO photos from Rivie Bondar.

Approximately 30 photo albums and 100s of loose photos from the estate of Miriam Rabinovitch.

Photos, papers and newspaper articles from Anita Sky.

1977 Jewish Community Council Program booklet, the speaker, Theodore Bikel, from Eva Weisz.

Photos from Jay Cairns.

Photos, booklets, certificates about Dasha Goody and Edmonton Musical Theatre. Also, articles, photos and certificates about Brandy Graesser's drumming career from Brandy and Rob Graesser.

Certificates, booklets and year-books about David Grossman from Shirley Grossman.

16 cm x 30 cm of Anti-Semitism and Holocaust research notes from Ken Wasserman.

Naturalization documents of her father, Joseph Shaw, from Rosalie Shaw.

Photos and newspaper articles from Michael and Colleen Paull.

Photos from Al Lyons.

Newspaper articles, invitation, letters, songs; all from The National Council of Jewish Women and two publications from the Canadian Council of Women, both 1971, from Florence Morris.

A special thanks to Sharon Abbott who continually collects clippings, invitations, magazine articles for us and dropped off a 30 x 10 cm box for the Archives.

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).

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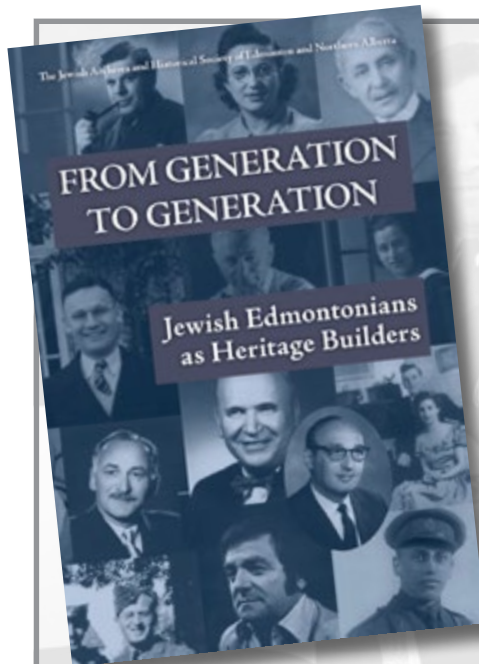
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Paula Simons
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