

ירשה

Heritage – Yerusha
SUMMER 2007
Tammuz 5767
VOLUME 9, No. 3
www.jahsena.ca



HERITAGE

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

INSIDE



**Chevra
Kadisha
Turns 100**

page 4



**Mickey Dlin
Stories from
the front**

page 6



**Order of
Canada
Recipients**

page 8

Edmonton Chevra Kadisha Turns 100



This year, the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha turns 100 years old. Shown above is the original entrance to the cemetery, circa 1915. The Chevra Kadisha was started as an offshoot of the Edmonton Hebrew Association, which also celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. The Chevra Kadisha marked the occasion with a gala Cantorial Concert on June 11th, in conjunction with a conference for North American Chevra Kadishas held in Edmonton at the Fantasyland Hotel. Provincial Archives of Alberta photo A205, donated by Hymie Baltzan.

Hold that date!

CASINO

Our casino will take place
August 29-30, 2007



From the Archivist's Desk...

by DEBBY SHOCTOR

June, 2007

Since January, we have seen a number of exciting historical events take place around the community. In January, the Beth Israel Synagogue celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a Gala Dinner and permanent historical display. In March, Beth Shalom celebrated its 75th Anniversary, and also created a beautiful historical display, thanks to the hard work of Rabbi David Kunin. Now, in June, the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha is celebrating its 100th Anniversary with a gala concert and North-America-wide conference right here in town. I don't think we have experienced such a banner year for interest in History and Archives since the 100th anniversary of the Province of Alberta in 2005 and the City of Edmonton in 2004.

Also this past month we celebrated the 100th anniversary of organized Baseball in the City of Edmonton. And I just returned from the 200th anniversary of my High School, Jarvis Collegiate Institute, in Toronto. It is very gratifying to see such an interest taken by people in their own history, and the history of their schools and communities. The Jarvis reunion had been ten years in the planning. As it was the first high school in the city of Toronto, naturally there was a lot of interest in the event, which had been pre-dated by the 175th anniversary the year I graduated. (I'll let you figure that one out!)

I was also privileged to be one of the judges at this year's Historica Fair, held at

the Alberta Legislature in May. For those of you who aren't familiar with this, it is like a Science Fair, but all the projects are based on Canadian History rather than science. The students, from grades 4-8, put together displays and presentations on any aspect of Canadian History, and I have to say there were some very interesting and well-done projects -- I actually learned a lot about everything from Fashion in Canada, to the history of Lacrosse, the Canadian Flag, and William Shatner. It's great to see young people taking such an interest in history. The winners go on the Provincial finals in Lethbridge and then to the Canadian finals in Ottawa.

At the end of July, we will again be participating in the Edmonton and District Historical Fair with an open house, so watch for that, and in the fall, watch for our AGM featuring keynote speaker and ex-Edmontonian Mel Comisarow. We also hope to have our second documentary film finished sometime before Chanukah this year, so watch for your invitation to the premiere.

I hope you have a history-filled summer, and perhaps consider taking in some of our city and province's fascinating museums and historic sites. Look for them on www.museum.alberta.ab.ca.

Debby Shoctor
Archivist

ירשה HERITAGE

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

CO-PRESIDENTS

DAN KAUFFMAN
JINI VOGEL

ARCHIVIST & EDITOR

DEBBY SHOCTOR

FOUNDING
PRESIDENT

URI ROSENZWEIG

VICE PRESIDENTS

MANDLE NOZICK

TREASURER

HOWARD DAVIDOW

SECRETARY

GLORIA AARON

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

JACK CHETNER

FLORIE AXLER

CORY FELBER

DR. MANUEL FRIEDMAN

BARRY ZALMANOWITZ

DR. ERIC SCHLOSS

GRAPHIC DESIGN
PAGEMASTER PUBLICATION
SERVICES INC.

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

Telephone (780) 489-2809

Fax (780) 481-1854

Email jahsena@shaw.ca

Website www.jahsena.ca

JAHSENA Spring Program a Success

Author Jill Culiner was recently in Edmonton to speak to JAHSENA members and guests about her recently published book, *Finding Home: In the Footsteps of the Jewish Fusgeyers*. The program took place on Thursday, May 31st at the JCC. Copies of the book are available for sale from the JAHSENA office.

In *Finding Home: In the Footsteps of the Jewish Fusgeyers*, author Jill Culiner has uncovered a largely forgotten corner of Jewish history. The Fusgeyers were Jews who fled persecution in Romania in the early 1900s in order to find refuge, ultimately, in the New World. Destitute and desperate, but resolute, they crossed the country on foot, supporting themselves by giving theatrical performances. One hundred years later, Culiner, an intrepid traveler, retraces their steps, also crossing Romania on foot in the search for traces of this lost epic journey.

Culiner pursues her quest along the former immigrant trail from Budapest, through Vienna, Frankfurt, Rotterdam, London, Liverpool, through the Canadian gold and silver boom towns and on to the Jewish farming communities of the western prairies. Contemporary culture's focus on Holocaust studies can sometimes obscure the historical fact that the roots of anti-Semitism go back long before the Second World War. Through Culiner's astute perceptions, the origins and persistence of anti-Semitism are made clear.



Author Jill Culiner

Culiner is a keen observer of eastern European culture, and her cool wit and engaging style have created a compelling chronicle of loss and discovery.

A professional photographer and author, JILL CULINER has presented her exhibition on the Hungarian Holocaust throughout Europe (including the Jewish Film Festival in Budapest, the Museum of Contemporary History in Paris and the War Museum in Besançon).

NEW MEMBERS

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

Freya & Lewis Wasel
Isidor Gliener
Susan Lieberman
David Aaron
Joe & Ruth-Ellen Shafir
Jack Eaman

REFUAH SHALEMAH

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to send a Refuah Shalemah to:
Helen Rosenberg
Uri Rosenzweig

Corrections:

In the last edition of *Heritage*, it was reported that Mayor Stephen Mandel was born in 1956. He was in fact born in 1946.

DONATION CARDS

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

MAZEL TOV

To Sparkie Milner, Mazel Tov on your 80th Birthday, from Dan and Esther Kauffman

To Dan and Esther Kauffman, Mazel Tov on your 50th Anniversary from Rose and Ed Azinan.

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to extend its best wishes to:
Dr. Anne Fanning Binder on being named to the Order of Canada

Prof. Jacob Masliyah on being named to the Order of Canada

Arthur Hiller on being named to the Order of Canada

Prof. Cyril Kay on being named to the Order of Canada

Mike and Caroline Ullman on the birth of their son.

To Dr. Max Dolgoy on his 95th birthday.

To Mandle and Norma Nozick on their 60th wedding anniversary.

To Gayle Tallman on her receipt of the Spirit of Anne Frank Award.

To Ted and Gloria Aaron, Mazel Tov on your 60th Anniversary.

SYMPATHY

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA send their sympathy to:

Peter Lutsky and family on the loss of Joseph Lutsky, z'l.

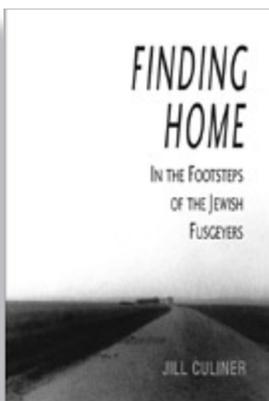
Valda Levin and family on the loss of Dr. Sol Levin, z'l.

Becky Fayerman and family on the loss of Dr. Harold Fayerman, z'l.

The family of the late Solomon Agronin, z'l.

To the Lutsky family, condolences on the loss of Joseph Lutsky, z'l

From Dan and Esther Kauffman



Finding Home In the Footsteps of the Jewish Fusgeyers by Jill Culiner is the story of Romanian emigration.

Edmonton Chevra Kadisha turns 100



Chapel at the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery. JAHSENA Archives.

FOLLOWING THE FORMALIZATION OF THE EDMONTON JEWISH COMMUNITY IN 1906 with the establishment of the Edmonton Hebrew Association, Mr. Abraham Cristall, Edmonton's first Jewish citizen, purchased land on the south side of the North Saskatchewan river on May 26, 1907, for a Jewish Cemetery. The land was located at 7622-101 Ave., which still serves as the community cemetery to this day.

In those days, it was a short distance from the heart of Jewish Community on 95th St. in Edmonton's East End, down the Dawson hill road, across the road and back up the hill to the cemetery. In the winter, the horse-drawn hearses had to use wooden logs as brakes, but in summer, the going was better. Motorized hearses started in the 1930s.

The first modern organization of a burial society responsible for the entire community

was formed in Prague by Rabbi Elezar Ashkenazi in 1564. Its rules and regulations were codified by the Maharal. They became the model for all other Jewish burial societies. The functions of the Burial Society or Chevra Kadisha, literally "Holy Society" arose from two Judaic principles: that reverence must be accorded to the deceased because the body once housed the soul, and secondly, that no profit should be made from the burial of the dead. Therefore the Chevra Kadisha is a charitable society, unlike most non-Jewish burial societies or funeral parlours.

The original Edmonton Men's Chevra Kadisha members were chosen from the original founders of the Beth Israel Synagogue in 1907. The society was officially incorporated in 1925. The women's Chevra Kadisha got started unofficially in 1914, but was formalized as a society in 1919 with the

adoption of by-laws. The charter members of the organization at that time were: Mrs. H. B. Klein, Tsoril Cristall, Debra Cohen, Zelda Weinberg, Hoda Rodnunsky, and Hinda Baltzan. The men prepare the male members of the community for burial (taharat), and the women prepare the females. The women also stitch the seven burial garments (tachrichim) used to shroud the deceased. Lists of the 92 active Chevra Kadisha members from 1907-1935 can be found on the walls of the Cemetery Chapel.

The tachrichim, or shrouds are fashioned after the garments that the high priest wore in the temple on Yom Kippur. They are white, made of linen, and hand-sewn with no knots so that they will disintegrate easily. They are made without hems, to signify their impermanence, and with no pockets, because you can take no worldly goods with you into the afterlife. Everyone: rich or poor, young or old, are buried in the same garments. The caskets are also uniform, made out of wood, with no nails.

Early on, founding member Jacob Baltzan formed an alliance with local funeral parlour owner J. Connely, of Connely-McKinley funeral directors, to help out with the Jewish funerals by providing the hearse and passenger cars, filing of forms, etc. This relationship has continued until the present day. The cemetery



The Chesed Shel Emes Chapel, built in 1963.

JAHSENA Archives, donated by the Edmonton Jewish Community Council.

fence and gates were designed and made by Leib Agranov, who formerly worked as Blacksmith to the Czar. He embellished them with beautiful fruits, birds and flowers, which can still be seen today.

At first, there was nothing but a small wooden shed used for shelter out at the cemetery, but from 1930-1935 money was collected to build a permanent chapel there, which was used for services for many years until it became too small to accommodate the growing community. In 1963, the Cheshel Shel Emes was built at 12313-105 Ave., a much larger facility, which included rooms for preparing the taharot and for sewing of the tachrichim. The smaller chapel was renovated in the mid-1990s, and is still often used for services.

Other embellishments out at the cemetery later included the erection of a cenotaph after World War II, ca. 1947 with the names of the war dead inscribed onto it, which is used every Remembrance Day. A Holocaust memorial was also erected in the mid-1970s, and was used for Yom Hashoah services every year until the new Holocaust memorial was sculpted by Susan Owen Kagan and placed on the grounds of the Alberta Legislature Building. A guide to the graves was developed and set out in the grounds to help visitors find their loved ones. This guide was revised and updated recently by Cory Felber of JAHSENA, who also photographed every stone in the cemetery for inclusion on the Jewish Online World Burial Registry, which can be accessed at www.jewishgen.org. This allows relatives from all over the world the opportunity to see the headstones of loved ones via the internet.

The headstones are cut to strict standards, and are mostly provided by Edmonton Granite Memorials. An interesting thing about our cemetery is that the graves do not face East, as in most Jewish Cemeteries, but North-South instead. No one seems to know why this is so, it has just always been that way. What is also unique about our cemetery is that it serves all denominations in the community: Orthodox, Conservative and Reform.

The Chevra Kadisha says there is room



A Jewish Funeral, circa 1938, conducted by Connelly-McKinley. JAHSENA Archives, donated by the Chevra Kadisha.

in the cemetery for community members for about another ten to 25 years, but then they will have to start using land which they bought on 156th St. near St. Albert as an auxiliary location. However, they are still exploring other options. At this time, reservations cannot be made for plots, except for the very elderly or infirm.

Today, the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha is comprised of about 60 volunteers, both men and women, who offer 24-hour service for families of the bereaved. Unlike most North American Chevra Kadishas, the organization is 100 percent volunteer run. The only employee is the caretaker at the Cemetery. Once contacted, the Chevra meets with the family and looks after all funeral arrangements. Costs are negotiated on an individual basis, and no one is denied service.

The Edmonton Chevra Kadisha will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary with a gala concert and convention here in Edmonton. The concert will take place on June 11th at the Beth Israel Synagogue, and will feature three world-class cantors. The concert will be held in conjunction with the fifth annual North American Chevra Kadisha Conference, which will take place for the first time here in Edmonton at the Fantasyland Hotel, from Sunday, June 10th to Tuesday, June 12th. Members of Chevra Kadishas from around the world will attend.

THESE PAINTINGS are part of a unique cycle of fifteen commissioned by the Prague Chevra Kadisha ca. 1780, probably as decoration for its meeting hall. They detail the major stages in preparations for a funeral and burial. They are in the collection of the State Museum, Prague.



The Making of the Shroud. Burial Society, Prague.



The Washing of the Body. Burial Society, Prague.



Carrying the Body out of the House. Burial Society, Prague.

Stories from the front: Flight Lieutenant Mickey Dlin's Indian Ocean Ordeal

The following is an excerpt from an account of the sinking of Mickey Dlin's Sunderland Flying Boat off the West Coast of Africa in January, 1942. The aircraft crashed in the ocean and the entire crew spent four days adrift in dinghies with hardly any food or water until they were rescued. Donated to the JAHSENA Archives by Mickey's daughter, Cory Dlin Felber. Mickey's future brother-in-law, Alex Podolsky, was killed in action during the war. When he returned to Edmonton, he married Sybil Podolsky, and became a leader in the Jewish community.

"For many long hours, the Sunderland Flying Boat 'V' for Victor had flown back and forth off the west coast of Africa on escort duty



Flight Lieutenant Mickey Dlin, in inner flying suit. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Cory Dlin Felber.



"A very interesting picture. At the extreme right you see the half-collapsed dinghy which was our one hope for two days. The other four were thrown to us. You can pick me out – 2nd dinghy from the left with my head back watching the "nice" aeroplanes. Some of our friends were there anxiously watching after their search." JAHSENA Archives, donated by Cory Dlin Felber.

over the straggling south-bound convoy it was protecting, and when at last it was relieved by another flying boat, 'V' for Victor circled, signaled a parting message by lamp and turned away for base...

"The official cause of the mishap was afterwards stated to be a sudden tropical storm, for while the Sunderland was flying steady at only 600-800 ft. Its four mighty engines filling the aircraft with a roar the crew were accustomed to, all noise suddenly ceased, and the amazed crew froze motionless listening only to the whine of wind against metal, as the huge aircraft dropped its nose and glided steeply downwards, its engines dead.

"As the flying boat rapidly lost height in spite of the pilot's efforts, the crew realized their danger, but before they had a chance to brace themselves for the shock, the aircraft was down to sea level. At high speed it skimmed the top of a giant swell, bounced twice amid the deafening noise of twisting metal, smashed nose first into the second swell, plunged under and the nose of the aircraft was wrenched completely off.

"With tons of water pouring in through gaping holes, seconds counted as the crew

fought their way out through roof and sides as best they could. The first man out, Flight Lieutenant Dlin, mid-ship gunner, turned back to assist the navigator to get the precious dinghy clear of the plane, while the rest of the crew somehow managed to jump clear. In a matter of seconds, with their lives depending on it, the airmen were in the water and clinging desperately to the triangular-shaped dinghy the navigator had inflated. As they scrambled in and paddled away from the sinking Sunderland, the pilot, who was found to be in great pain from a back injury, was laid full-length on the floor of the dinghy, but the rear gunner was missing -- he must have been killed outright in his turret when the Sunderland struck the water.

"The dinghy, a five-seater type was weighted well down into the water by its heavy cargo of ten airmen; in addition to this serious overcrowding, the Sunderland's captain and pilot, Flt. Lt. Jimmy Ennis, was experiencing such acute pain from his back injury that he could not move from his prostrate position on the floor...

"The lowering effect of seasickness and the general condition of the Sunderland crew as

they sprawled on top of each other, clutching the sea-swept craft, was not helpful to morale, but a terrible blow was to come. Only three hours after the ditching, one of the dinghy's two air chambers burst from the strain, and half the dinghy rapidly sunk, causing the helpless captain to slide off into the shark-infested water, together with most of the crew.

"The captain was helped back into the dinghy, now scarcely better than a length of inflated tube, and laid again on the fabric floor, inches deep in water, and subject to the waves washing over him from the deflated side of the dinghy. Two members of the crew shared these conditions in an attempt to comfort him, while the other seven airmen supported themselves as best they could in the water round the half which was still inflated...

"The temperature dropped rapidly that night and the airmen spent what seemed a lifetime chilled by cold and staring at the dark forms bobbing beside them... One or two of the men had complained of sharp stabbing pains in the legs which could not be explained, until someone realized they were being bitten by small jelly fish about two inches long, and as the attacks increased in intensity on every man, so

it became harder to endure, until they yelled out in pain.

"As the day wore on, those men without shirts began to suffer the terrific heat of the sun, for it was already beginning to blister the bare shoulders. The injured captain, who was luckily wearing a shirt, did not suffer so badly about the body, but Dlin extracted some gentian violet ointment from the First Aid Kit and rubbed it over his face, which badly needed protection... Their ration for the day was a very short sip of tomato juice and some chocolate opium pills from the First Aid Kit, which they ate because there was nothing else...

"The crew [soon] realized their chances of being picked up were now remote, for they were very low in the water, and had not sighted a ship or plane the whole time. They were silent for long periods, and reserved their energy by talking only when it was necessary. Throats and mouths were swollen and humour had disappeared, for the men were now occupied with their thoughts, their vision being confined to surrounding waves and the yellow rubber fabric inches away from their faces, which they stared at hour after hour...

"On the third day...although nobody

really believed it, the sound of an aircraft was heard, and within a few moments a Hudson could be seen flying overhead and fairly low. To everybody's amazement, they appeared to have been spotted, for the Hudson circled and started signaling by lamp. The reaction of the men, apart from the initial surprise, was scarcely felt, for they were in so bad a condition that they were past caring whether they were picked up or not, and were certainly unable to realize their good fortune.

"Coming down to circle very low, the Hudson was seen to drop a number of small objects which came down very fast and hit the water with a big splash about 90 yards away. Realizing that this was additional rescue equipment, the second pilot and navigator decided to try and pick up the equipment...on reaching the objects now floating in the water, they were found to be four single-seater dinghies and two large boxes of rations...

"After it had been circling for some time, the Hudson signaled that a Sunderland was on its way to take over, but when the Hudson left, no aircraft came to take its place...

"By now, the WOP/AG was in terrible condition, suffering from hallucinations and occasionally becoming violent. The crew did what they could to pacify him, but it became increasingly difficult...

"About noon on the fourth day, with the sun at its hottest, the airmen were again startled by the sound of a Hudson low overhead, and as those with sufficient strength watched it circle, it signaled a British destroyer who was on the way to pick them up. Almost unnoticed, the aircraft left them...

"Later that afternoon, the Wireless OP/AG went mad, screaming violently, until finally his heart stopped beating. The captain was told, and he ordered that his hands and feet be massaged, but it was no good. They removed his possessions from his pockets and cast him adrift. No sorrow was felt at this tragic death, for everyone was past being affected by anything.

"Just four hours later, the British destroyer arrived and the last Dlin remembered was being aboard and surrounded by sailors, who, in their efforts to help, kept touching his raw body..."



"Coming onto the ship that picked us up. I'm climbing the ladder. The dark stuff on my face beside the beard is some purple anti-sun lotion which I used. My Captain HL Ennis is at the bottom left hand corner. Two more boys at the other end looking at each other, one getting a hand up and one just going over the side." JAHSENA Archives, donated by Cory Dlin Felber.

Order of Canada Honours Community Members

BY PAULA E. KIRMAN

The Order of Canada is the highest honour awarded to civilians by the federal government. It recognizes a lifetime of high achievements to both the local community and the nation. Recognizing people from all parts of society and in different career fields, the Order of Canada is given to those who enrich the lives of those around them. There are three levels of the Order of Canada: Member (achievement in or to a specific field, activity or community); Officer (a high degree of service to Canada and greater humanity); and, Companion (achievement to the highest degree to Canada and humanity at large, throughout one's lifetime).

Numerous people from Edmonton's Jewish community have been awarded the Order of Canada, since the awards began in 1967, including:

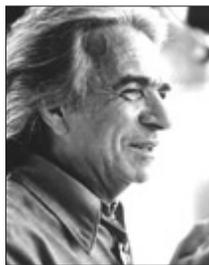
- Sports broadcaster Tiger Goldstick
- Philanthropist and entrepreneur Zane Feldman
- Publisher Mel Hurtig
- Author and scholar, Henry Kreisel
- Joe Shoctor, founder of the Citadel Theatre
- Physician Bernard Snell
- Businessman Jake Superstein

In 2006-7, four more members of the community were honoured by the Order of Canada.

ARTHUR HILLER

Hollywood director Arthur Hiller is likely one of the Edmonton Jewish community's most famous exports. Although he now lives in Beverly Hills, he frequently returns to Edmonton to visit family and friends, and take part in local events.

Hiller was born in 1923 here in Edmonton. He attended the Victoria School for the Performing and Visual Arts, but put his education on hold to join the Royal Canadian



Arthur Hiller
JAHSENA Archives,
donated by Arthur Hiller

Air Force. After World War II, he attended the University of Toronto, where he got a Masters in psychology, and joined the CBC in 1949, becoming involved in public-affairs broadcasting and live television drama.

Since moving to Los Angeles, he has directed more than 300 television episodes, including some for the series *Gunsmoke*, *Ben Casey*, and *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*. As a movie director, he was nominated for an Emmy for 1970's *Love Story*. *Love Story* did not win the Oscar, but earned him a Golden Globe for Best Director.

In 2002, Hiller received a star on Canada's Walk of Fame in Toronto, as well as receiving the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the Academy Awards that same year, for his contributions to humanitarian and charitable causes.

Hiller, who was made an Officer of the Order of Canada, has been married to his wife Gwen (Pechet) since 1948, and they have two children and two grandchildren.

DR. JACOB MASLIYAH

With the current Alberta oil boom, the extraction of bitumen from the tar sands is a hot topic. Bitumen is a dark, viscous liquid that is a central ingredient in heavy oil. Dr. Jacob Masliyah, a professor of chemical engineering at the University of Alberta, is focused on developing ways to extract bitumen in more efficient ways, using less energy.

"I was very amazed and surprised," says Masliyah of his reaction when he received the news that he was going to be inducted as an Officer of the Order of Canada. "It is the ultimate achievement because it is being recognized; it's the country's highest civilian award. For me, as an immigrant, it is a big thing."

Masliyah was born in Baghdad, Iraq, an area also known for its oil. He came to Canada in 1964 and has been with the U of A since



Dr. Jacob Masliyah
JAHSENA Archives, donated
by Dr. Jacob Masliyah

1977, after spending time at a variety of other universities in London, New Brunswick, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. Of his area of specialty, Masliyah says that, "The whole industry is like an art. We put a lot of science into that art. Now we understand the mechanism, the physics, the chemistry of the process."

He also emphasizes that this research has a positive impact on the environment. "The rule of thumb is the more efficient you are, the less carbon dioxide you produce. If the efficiency is increased it means the emissions are decreased," he explains.

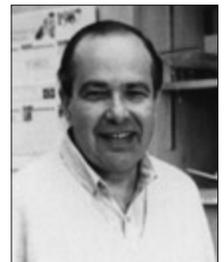
In the community, Masliyah and his wife Odette have been involved with Talmud Torah, and Beth Shalom Synagogue. They have three children who are pursuing professional careers in Eastern Canada.

DR. CYRIL KAY

A Professor Emeritus in biochemistry at the University of Alberta, Dr. Cyril Kay works full time with the Alberta Cancer Board and has been an integral force behind the development of the research strategy for provincial health.

Kay was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1995, and was promoted to an Officer in 2006. He was chosen to become a Member because of his work with Alberta Science at the University of Alberta, where he built up an extensive and distinguished group of protein chemists (Kay's major area of research is in protein chemistry, particularly how muscles operate at the molecular level) who became renowned worldwide.

Now, as Vice President of Research with the Alberta Cancer Board, Kay's work has been elevated to a national level. "I've been involved in building an Alberta Cancer Research Institute, which means I have brought all of the cancer



Dr. Cyril Kay
JAHSENA Archives,
donated by Dr. Cyril Kay

researchers in Alberta under one umbrella," he says. "That has made us a much stronger and more broad research community. We can tackle many more problems from a multi-disciplinary standpoint because we have a tremendous amount of expertise."

Kay's Jewish involvement extends worldwide, such as being active in the Weitzman Institute of Science. Kay and his wife Faye are active members of Beth Shalom Synagogue, and Faye is involved with the Jewish Drop-In Centre. They have two children in Toronto in the academic and medical fields, and four grandchildren.

DR. ANNE FANNING

Dr. Anne Fanning is an infectious disease specialist at the University of Alberta, with a particular interest in the treatment of tuberculosis. Not only

is she interested in the treatment of the disease, but in education, policy making, and advocacy for the disease and its victims.

Fanning was extremely excited to become a Member of the Order of Canada. "It was probably the greatest honour I have ever had," she says.

Even though it does not receive the airtime of other diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis is still the number two worldwide killer as far as infectious diseases are concerned. "There is a big stigma associated with it," Fanning explains. "There is a huge effort by the World Health Organization and the International Union Against TB to put TB on the aid agency agenda and in the media. It is a totally preventable, totally curable disease that still kills two million people yearly."

Fanning is known in the Jewish community through her marriage to Justice Mel Binder, a judge with the Court of Queen's Bench, and former City Councillor. They have two children, Amy and Sarah.



Dr. Anne Fanning
supplied photo

International Jewish War Veterans Memorial to be Built in Toronto

THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS of Canada – Toronto Region is building an International Jewish War Veterans Memorial, entitled, "Flames of Memory" in Toronto. The monument, designed by renowned Toronto Jewish Architect Daniel Liebeskind, will be erected in Earl Bales Park, at the corner of Bathurst St. and Sheppard Avenue, in Toronto, Ontario.

The object of the memorial is to keep alive the memory of all Jewish veterans worldwide, and particularly the Canadian Jewish Veterans who fought and died not only in World War II, but all wars of the past two centuries.

At the centre of the memorial is a 150-200 seat amphitheatre. Surrounding the stage is a sweeping, angled structure crowned by eight candles, alluding to the hannukiah menorah – a theme chosen due to Hannuka's celebration of the flight from the freedom of tyranny. A pointed flame-bearing structure pierces the wall – the Shamash, the head Hanukkah candle, used to light all the others. The rear of the amphitheatre is flanked by the Wall of Remembrance and the Wall of Honour, on which are inscribed the names of those who died in past conflicts. Encircling the walls of Honour and Remembrance are the flags of 30 countries that participated in the war against the Axis forces, as well as the insignia of several Canadian armed service branches.

Records show that more than 1.5 million Jewish soldiers fought in the ranks of the Allied Forces in the armies of the United States, Soviet Union, Poland, England, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the Brigade from Eretz Israel.

Jews fought in all the military divisions, on land, on sea and in the air, in commando and underwater units, in the engineering and armoured corps, in the medical and supply corps, in communications, reconnaissance and intelligence, they fought in all fronts in Europe, the Pacific, Japan and China. They took part in the invasion of Normandy, in the battlefields of the European continent, the liberation of Europe, the conquest of Germany and the release of the inmates of the concentration and death camps. Above all, they helped the survivors.

Tens of thousands of Jews fell in combat. Thousands of Jews were decorated for bravery and cited for acts of heroism. They shed their blood, contributed to the destruction of the German war machine and now we are becoming aware of them.

Some facts: In every war and armed conflict involving Canada both before and after Confederation, men and women of the Jewish faith have served in the armed forces of Canada. In the First World War: 4000 served – over 100 sacrificed their lives. In the Second World War: Over 17,000 served, 423 sacrificed their lives, 11 from Edmonton.

In World War II, the greatest percentage of any Canadian ethnic group that served their nation were Jews, as was the greatest percentage cited for meritorious service and decorations.

If you would like more information on the memorial, or a form to fill out to include yourself or a loved one on the Wall of Remembrance, please contact the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, 111 Finch Ave. W. Suite 353, Toronto, ON, M3J 2E5 or phone 416-736-6744.

CYRIL E. LEONOFF TO RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies is pleased to announce that it has granted the 2007 Distinguished Service Award to Cyril E. Leonoff, a resident of Vancouver. The award acknowledges the lifetime scholarly achievements of Mr. Leonoff in Canadian

Jewish Studies, and particularly in the documentation of the Jewish History of British Columbia. Mr. Leonoff is also well known for his extensive research on the Jews who settled in the Canadian Prairies, notably the farm settlements in Saskatchewan.

GERMAN PARLIAMENT UNANIMOUSLY AGREES TO EASE ACCESS TO VAST HOLOCAUST ARCHIVE

THE UPPER CHAMBER OF THE GERMAN parliament (Bundesrat) agreed on Friday (March 3) to changes in the Bonn accord, an international treaty which defines the rules for access to the data of the International Tracing Service, the world's largest Holocaust archive. The storehouse, which is administered by the International Committee of the Red Cross, is situated in the German town of Bad Arolsen.

Under the new regulations, both survivors and scholars will have access to the files. In addition, copies of the data, which is currently being digitized, will be sent to other institutions devoted to the memory of the Holocaust, among others the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and Yad Vashem in Israel.

The Bundestag, the upper chamber of the German parliament, had agreed to the changes in the treaty on March 9. The treaty can now be ratified by the German President Horst Köhler in the near future. Of the 11 countries that oversee the archive's administration, Germany will be the 6th country to ratify. Israel, the United States, Poland, the Netherlands and the UK have already done so. Belgium, France, Greece, Italy and Luxembourg have yet to ratify.

Germany, together with the United States and the Netherlands, who currently chair the 11-country governing body of the International Tracing Service, is leading an effort urging all member states to ratify as soon as possible.

US lawmakers urge opening of ITS archive

On the same note, a US congressional committee on Tuesday urged nations overseeing the archive to open it up to the public, suggesting it could help counter deniers such as Iranian President Mohammed Ahmadinejad.

A resolution passed by the US House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee was aimed at seven European countries that have yet to ratify an accord to open to researchers the roughly 50 million Nazi files housed at the ITS in the central German town of Bad Arolsen.

Survivors and scholars say the records on concentration camps and their victims will fill gaps in history, in part because the archive has testimony of victims and ordinary Germans who witnessed Nazi brutality.

In view of "Ahmadinejad's anti-Semitic rhetoric, and a resurgence of anti-Semitism in part of the world, the opening of the archives at Bad Arolsen could not be more urgent," the panel's measure said.

Opening the archive "is a vital contribution to the world's collective memory and understanding of the Holocaust," said the resolution, which needs the full House's approval to formally take effect.

The US government and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington have led international pressure to open the archive. Paul Shapiro, director of the US Holocaust Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, also spoke at the hearing, held by the House Subcommittee on Europe. He highlighted the importance of the Bad Arolsen archive and praised German Justice Minister Brigitte Zypries for her own efforts in opening it up.

Public access to the records "is a moral and humanitarian imperative," especially because of "the short time left to Holocaust survivors", said the House committee.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee is chaired by Tom Lantos, 79, a Hungarian-born Democratic representative from California and the only Holocaust survivor in the US Congress. Its Subcommittee on Europe is chaired by Congressman Robert Wexler, a Democrat from

Florida. (TWIG/dpa)

US special envoy for Holocaust issues makes first visit to the ITS in Bad Arolsen

Previously, the US Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues J. Christian Kennedy paid a visit on March 12 to the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, where he took stock of progress made in the digitization of the documents.

Up to 7 terabyte of electronic information will soon be ready to be exported to recipient institutions, according to a statement on the ITS website. Kennedy discussed with its directorate how the US could best assist the ITS in doing so, as well as in fully opening up the archives. Presently, individuals can request specific information from the ITS which they receive within two months.

Kennedy has expressed confidence that the ITS will be able to open its archives for public research purposes this year and to transfer digital copies to all 11 nations that oversee it. (TWIG/ITS)

From: "The Week in Germany" info@germany.info or www.germany.info

Little Synagogue on the Prairie

Shalom Dear Friends,

I am very happy to announce that The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project has hit the world wide web at: <http://www.littlesynagogue.ca/>

Thank you so much to Greg Ptashny for all his amazing work on our website. Thank you so much to Travis Sengaus for designing our fundraising brochure, which can be found on the upper right hand corner of the home page.

If you would like to learn more, volunteer or make a donation to The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project, I'd love to hear from you.

Turn up the volume (on the Home and Photos pages) and dance! L'Chaim!

Sincerely,

Irena Karshenbaum, President
The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society
(403) 669-1687
www.littlesynagogue.ca

PS And please tell your family and friends about this unique project...



Abe and Sarah Ullman, near Rumsey, Alberta.
JAHSENA Archives.

This project will build a replica of the original Montefiore Synagogue, built in 1913, in Calgary's Heritage Park.

The Moshe Yedlin Z'L Memorial Library of the Beth Shalom Congregation

BY NETTA PHILLET

IN THE MID-1980S, discussions began about collecting, classifying and cataloguing the books that were to be found in the many corners of our synagogue. The board gave its approval and promised to support the effort to establish a functioning library. Mr. Moshe Yedlin, z'l, retired from 32 years of teaching at Talmud Torah, and Professor Bruce Elman, then Dean of Law at the U of A, both well-versed in Judaic studies, began the work.

The library was first housed in a small room on the lower floor and was open for borrowing books during office hours and on Sundays from 10 to 12. The help of the office staff was very important and much appreciated, and still is. On Sundays a member of the committee chaired by Mr. Yedlin was present to offer advice and assistance. The inauguration was held in November 1989.

In November 1991 with the death of Mr. Yedlin, his wife Dr. Tova Yedlin volunteered to take over as chairperson of the committee, and the board approved. With the many contributions in his memory the Yedlin Library fund was established. Generous donations by relatives and friends supplemented the budget awarded by the board, and remain an important source of income and sign of appreciation by the congregants.

On January 11, 1998 the library was dedicated in Mr. Yedlin's name. Many of his former students were active in preparations for the event. Today the holdings have increased to over 2600 titles, and are the city's largest collection of Jewish reference works, religious texts, history, philosophy, fiction and children's books. They have been bought but also donated, and we are the richer for this generosity. A number of our duplicate copies were sent to a shul in Saskatoon and a school in Montreal which suffered fires, and hundreds of Yiddish works have been mailed to the National Yiddish Book Centre in Massachusetts.

On Display

At the JCC...

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

At the Beth Israel...

Please check out the new permanent display at the Beth Israel Synagogue, "Beth Israel: 100 Years of Memories." This display was put together by the Beth Israel Historical Committee, with help from JAHSENA, and highlights the history of Edmonton's oldest Jewish Institution through 108 photographs, and a chronology. In addition, there is a temporary display of artifacts from the Beth Israel and its members.

At the Beth Shalom...

There is also a display in the Board Room of the Beth Shalom Synagogue, put together by Rabbi David Kunin with help from JAHSENA. This display chronicles the 75-year history of Beth Shalom Synagogue.

JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

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

10 cm. miscellaneous newspaper clippings, text and publications relating to the Edmonton Jewish Community, collected and donated by Sharon Abbot.

47 films, 145 photos, 7 CD-ROMS, 18 magnetic tapes, 113 audiocassettes, 23 videocassettes, 15 cm. text, ca. 2000 slides, 34 glass plate negatives, 19 cassettes, 1 film winder. Donated by Max and Raye Dolgoy from the estate of Reeve Dolgoy z'l.

24 banker's boxes of material relating to Edmonton BBYO, mostly text, donated by Edmonton BBYO chair John Bresler.

Two bound volumes donated by Bodil Jelhof Jensen. *Dilemma*, by Agnes Jelhof-Jensen, translated from the Danish by Bodil Jelhof Jensen, pub. 1995 by Oberon Press. The fictional story of Fiona, a woman who lives in a poor district of Copenhagen who takes a six-year old Jewish girl, Rine, and protects her from the Nazis. *The Bridge: Journal of the Danish-American Heritage Society*, Vol. 20, No. 1, 1997, containing "My Life Has Been Worth Living," by Agnes Jelhof Jensen. Mrs.

Jensen was a Holocaust survivor from Denmark who lived in Edmonton since emigrating from Denmark in 1954. She passed away in March of this year.

Oral Histories: Hanna Pollack, done by Brandy Graesser; Clara Riskin, done by Judy Goldsand, Sylvia Ullman Phillips, done by Ruth Ullman.

One flag, three photos and 1 cm. text relating to Sander Caplan, and his time serving with the Canadian Navy and RCAF during world War II, donated by his daughter, Deborah Rozenberg, or Vancouver.

Jewish Survivors of the Holocaust, Volumes I & II, published by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Donated by Michael Zabludowski, along with over 100 volumes on the Holocaust, which can be found in the JCC Library.

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"

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



TO ORDER CALL
489-2809

Do you remember...

JAHSENA is making a documentary about Edmonton's Jewish Community during World War II and the Israeli War of Independence, as a follow-up to "From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered." If you have any audio or visual material or

other memorabilia pertaining to these years in Edmonton, please contact the office at: 489-2809 or jahsena@shaw.ca, or producer Dan Kauffman.

Dave Panar and comrades building a spitfire under camouflage in Palestine during the Israeli War of Independence, 1948. JAHSENA Archives photo, donated by Dave Panar.



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 Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

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