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HERITAGE

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

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



Talmud Torah gets ready for its 100th!

PAA photo 75.388/46, donated by Burton Margolus.

- Front Row:** Eric Weil, Judy Rabin, Susan Schloss, Rosalie Shaw, Elva Switzer, Sandra Fratkin.
Second Row: Morley Bleviss, Irwin Woodrow, Phillip Lister, Sol Rolingher, Sidney Goorevitch, David Rosenberg, David Shugarman.
Third Row: Moshe Yedlin, Miss Sanderson and Principal Jack Chetner.
Fourth Row: Norman Bell, Ron Goldberg, Barry Brovender, Phillip Silver.

If you have any class or other Talmud Torah pictures, please bring them in to the JAHSENA office so that they can be included in the 100th Anniversary website. If you have any photos to donate, please phone or email the office at: 780-489-2809 or jahsena@shaw.ca.



From the Archivist's Desk...

by DEBBY SHOCTOR

Summer, 2010

Archives have been in the news a great deal this year, as well as being portrayed in movies, TV shows and books I have read recently, such as *Angels and Demons*, and the *Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*.

In fact, people seem to be more aware of Archives and the treasures they hold. It was barely a year ago that the City of Cologne Archives collapsed into a Subway tunnel being built below it, sending its 1000-year-old contents into the rising Rhine River below. This, the oldest municipal archive in Europe, containing the records of the Hanseatic League, the papers of Albertus Magnus and the music of Jacques Offenbach, had survived both the first and second world wars, only to be felled by a subway tunnel! They estimate it will take 30 years just to sort out the mess.

Local archivist Regina Landwehr from the University of Calgary has been over there twice this year to help sort through the rubble. This was the subject of a very interesting talk she gave at this year's Archives Society of Alberta Conference, held at the Banff Centre in May.

The theme of the conference was, "The War of Independence Revisited: Librarians vs. Archivists." Our keynote speaker, archival theorist Terry Cook, from the University of Manitoba, addressed this topic. This theme has become very

prevalent in the Archives world lately, as the National Library and Archives of Canada merged a couple of years ago into the National Library and Archives of Canada. Our special guest at the conference was Dr. Daniel Caron, National Librarian and Archivist of Canada.

Convergence is also happening at the University of Calgary, where Dr. Tom Hickerson has merged the Library, Archives, U of C Press and Special Collections into one unit. I have a suspicion something similar is about to happen at U of A, as their archives staff has been reduced to two people – pretty sad for a major Canadian University and research centre.

Of course in smaller archives and historical societies, such as ours, that convergence is inevitable, as we look after the JCC Library, as well as our own, the archives as well as any artifacts which individuals in the community hope to donate.

Until now, this has been rarer in larger institutions such as Universities. However in today's climate of recession and cutbacks, I fear it is becoming all too common.

Another contributing factor to this has been the explosion of the internet and digital access to libraries, archives and documents in general.

This has already sent warning shocks through the publishing industry, especially newspaper publishing, as people abandon print and opt for

on-line versions of newspapers, magazines and even books.

I myself recently bought a Kindle book-reader from Amazon, just to reduce the stacks of books by my bedside and save a few trees. No sooner had I done that then Apple brought out the I-Pad, and Chapters brought out its own version, the Kobo, now available in stores.

However, despite all this on-line access to information, they estimate that only about 1% of the world's documentary heritage is currently digitized, and of the born-digital documents that are now being generated, very little of them are being captured by archives.

We are essentially entering a digital dark age, a period of time when much information is in danger of being lost before techniques and procedures are developed to capture it permanently as we make the transition from paper to bits and bytes.

So think twice before you delete that email – you may want to print it, because it may not be retrievable. At least the papers which fell into the Rhine were able to be scooped out, dried and pieced together manually.

Piecing an endless string of ones and zeros together is much harder.

Debby Shoctor
Archivist

ירשה HERITAGE

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Rabbi Bernard Baskin Speaks to JAHSENA Members

Rabbi Bernard Baskin of Hamilton, Ontario's Anshe Shalom Synagoge was in town the week of April 12th to honour the Library at the University of Alberta with a donation of 7,000 rare books from his private collection. The University of Alberta contacted JAHSENA and suggested that we invite Rabbi Baskin to speak to us on the evening of April 15th on "Ten Turning Points in Jewish History."

I also had the pleasure of hearing Rabbi Baskin the previous evening at a dinner hosted by the University of Alberta Libraries, where he talked about his brother Leonard Baskin and his work at the Gehenna Press, which was most fascinating. Leonard Baskin was an avant-garde artist and printmaker in the United States in the 1960s and '70s, who printed and published many books of art and poetry, some with British poet laureate Ted Hughes.

Rabbi Bernard Baskin was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1920, and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. His father, Samuel, was a progressive Orthodox rabbi who had been ordained in Eastern Europe. Bernard was educated at an Orthodox yeshiva and public high school, and graduated from Brooklyn College, part of the City University of New York before moving on to the Jewish Institute of Religion where he was ordained in 1948.

Baskin actually took up his first post, in Denver, Colorado, before he officially graduated. One outcome of that experi-



Rabbi Bernard Baskin and JAHSENA President Jini Vogel at the joint University of Alberta Libraries - JAHSENA Spring Program, April 15th, 2010. Shoctor photo.

ence was his marriage to his wife, Marjorie Shatz.

The Baskins arrived in Hamilton in 1949. At that time, Temple Anshe Sholom was a congregation of 80 families worshipping in a bleak and cramped building at Hughson and Augusta streets. Within a year of the new rabbi's arrival work started on a modern new facility in a farm field in Westdale.

Rabbi Baskin became deeply involved in community service – he was a member of the public library board for a decade and served as its chairman, was a member of the boards of the Hamilton Art Gallery and Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra as well as Board of Governors of McMaster University.

Baskin became Rabbi Emeritus of the Temple in 1989. In retirement he and Marjorie operated an antique book business – Ibis—The Book Arts, an antiquarian bookselling firm specializing in Judaica, books about books, occult and private press volumes. His interest in rare

books was partially sparked by his brother Leonard Baskin, artist and publisher of the Gehenna Press.

Over the years there have been many honours – Baskin was one of the first Jews awarded an honorary doctorate by McMaster University, he is a recipient of the B'nai B'rith Humanitarian Award for his commitment to interfaith activities, he has been the Hamilton Jewish community's Man of Year and also received the Good Servant Award of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. In 1990, he was chosen for Hamilton's Gallery of Distinction.

Our program was well-attended, with about 90 members and friends coming out to hear Rabbi Baskin's enlightening talk on the 10 turning points in Jewish History, which include the Exodus, The Babylonian Exile, Shabbati Tzvi, the Spanish Expulsion, the French Revolution, the Dreyfus Affair, the mass immigration to America, the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel.

Cleaned & Pressed: Edmonton's Jewish Drycleaners

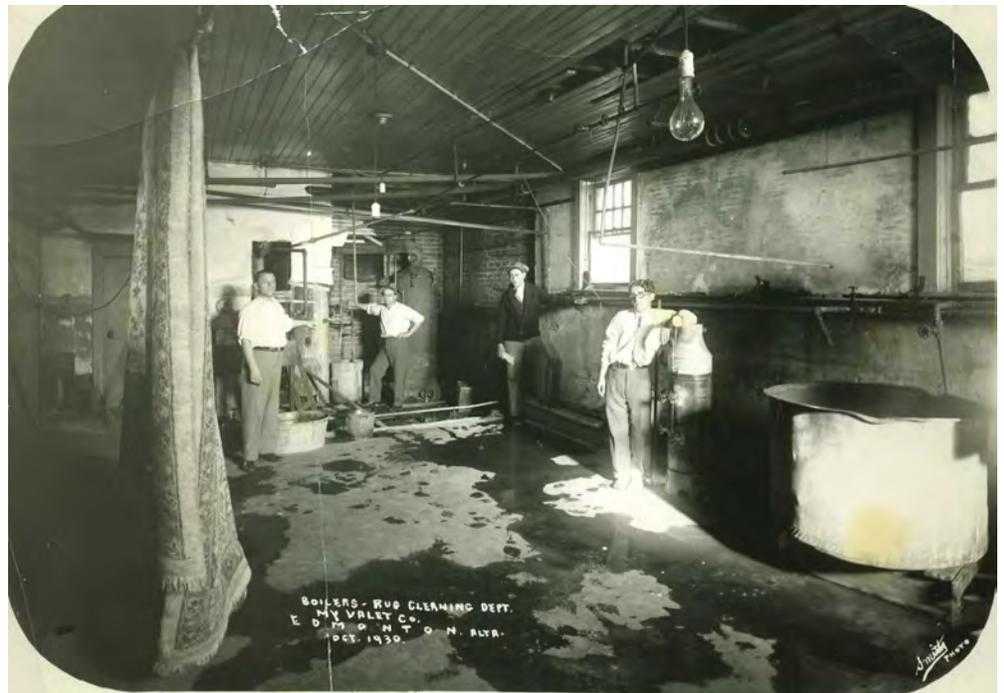
BY MARNI DLIN

There is a history of Jewish drycleaners in Edmonton, dating back to the 1920s. In 1926, Michael Podolsky started Dollar Cleaners at 93rd Street and 106th Avenue.

When Mickey Dlin returned from service in the RCAF and married Michael and Fannie Podolsky's daughter, Sybil, in 1945, he became the President and General Manager. Cecil Paull (formerly Podolsky), the youngest son of Michael and Fannie, joined the business in 1949. He attended courses in Silver Springs, MD, at the drycleaning school, which was the central location for study for North American drycleaners.



"Mr. Suede" drycleaning advertisement, ca. 1970. JAHSENA Archives.



Michael Podolsky's Dry-Cleaning Business, Rug Cleaning Department, October, 1930. JAHSENA Archives, photo donated by Cory Dlin Felber.

Dollar Cleaners had the first ever drive-thru cleaner depot, located at 108th Street and Jasper Avenue, where one could both drop off and pick up items. They also offered a special Blue Ribbon Aristo-Craft Care service, where every piece was hand-inspected for quality control by Cecil. The company had eight trucks with salesmen and four satellite stores along with the main plant and drive thru.

They had about 30 employees and won multiple industry awards. In 1964, Cecil decided it was time for a change and went into the insurance business. Mickey soon recognized that the drycleaning industry was on the decline and founded Western Linen Supply, which cleaned and provided linens to hotels, restaurants and shops. He developed a new system of data control for linen supply that was implemented in many other places. In 1965, when Western Linen was viable, he sold Dollar Cleaners to Trudeau's and became a Director of the amalgamated company, while also being President and Manager of Western Linen.

Hy Estrin started from the ground up at Capital Cleaners, which was owned by his uncle, Abe Estrin and Morris Gofsky in the

'40s through part of the '50s. In 1949, he bought Cosmo Cleaners on 99th Street and Whyte Avenue. He foresaw the arrival and growth of suede and leather fashions, and in the 1965, Cosmo became "Mr. Suede: King of Guaranteed Leather Cleaning." There were 7-10 employees and his wife, Goldy, was the office manager. Bernie, his son, helped in the business when he was a youngster and then was assistant manager from 1970-'80. There were franchises in Vancouver, Kamloops, Regina and Calgary, along with the Edmonton store. "Mr. Suede" did a tremendous volume of business through the post office from people in small towns all across Western Canada and the North. All the clothing and department stores endorsed "Mr. Suede" to their customers when they purchase their suede and leather garments. Hy developed his own processes for cleaning these materials, which became standards of the industry.

Hy sold Mr. Suede in 1988, and though it still can be found in the phone book, it is now part of Page the Cleaners.

In 1951, Sheppy Slutker bought Trudeau's Cleaners and Shirt Service from Mr. Trudeau. He also bought Brown's Cleaners,



Wedding of Sybil Podolsky and Mickey Dlin, 1945. JAHSENA Archives.



Goldy and Hy Estrin, JAHSENA Archives.

on 109th Street off Jasper Avenue. Brown's burned to the ground in the late '50s and was not rebuilt. Sheppy built the central Trudeau's plant on 142nd street and 111th Avenue. There were four satellite stores in different areas of the city. The Slutker family, including Jack, Alex and Ron worked there. Albert Charnaw, who was a brother-in-law, started as a driver, got his boiler man papers and managed two plants, and sister, Anne Charnaw was the main plant's office manager. They employed about 330 people and the average staff stayed for 14 years, which was a very long time. The facility was internally self-serviced. They had their own fleet of 30 + trucks with salesmen. They had their own mechanics for the vehicles and engineers for the huge boiler rooms. They were top leaders in the industry across Canada and many plants were styled after theirs. Competitors were always welcome to drop by and see how they ran such a successful business. Sheppy felt that "Martinizing," which was a coin-operated self-drycleaning service, would really cut into the dry cleaning business and sold Trudeau's in the early '70s.

Ray and Trudy Goldberg immigrated to Canada after enduring the Holocaust. Ray

worked for Mickey Dlin at Dollar Cleaners, for several years. In 1957, he started Hygienic Laundry and Shirt Service Ltd., near the Royal Alexandra Hospital on 111th Avenue and 101st Street. He specialized in wholesale, so most of the drycleaners brought him their customers' shirts and other items to clean and then once they were cleaned and brought back, delivered them to the customers either at the stores or by their delivery services. He also did tablecloths and aprons for hotels and construction site clothing. He dealt only with the wholesale side of the business, not retail. In 1973, he closed the business down.

Gary Segal bought The Cleanery, a well-established, wholesale-based cleaners, specializing in leather and suede, in November, 2009. The Cleanery is located at 11210-109 Avenue. He is working hard to build up the retail side of the business, while maintaining a fine reputation and many clients on the wholesale side.

He is proud to be part of the legacy of Jewish drycleaners who have served the City of Edmonton, as well as influenced and bettered the processes used for the drycleaning industry, as a whole, for more than 80 years.



Gary Segal of The Cleanery, JAHSENA Archives.



Ray Goldberg, JAHSENA Archives.

Bridging the Generations: Jewish Dentists in Edmonton

BY PAULA E. KIRMAN

There have been Jewish dentists in Edmonton for almost as long as there has been a Jewish community in the city. Even today, it is a fairly common profession for Jewish people to enter.

Dr. Bernie Adler is one of the city's premier dentists, Jewish or otherwise. Born and raised in Vegreville, in 1930, where his parents owned a department store, Adler entered Dentistry at the University of Alberta after managing his parents' store for two years. He graduated in 1957 and practiced for 38 years.

"In Vegreville, we had a family named Olyan. Harry Olyan's wife taught us our Yiddish and Hebrew. They were strong Zionists and it was Mrs. Olyan who taught me and the other Jewish children. We joined the Young Judea club and went to the summer camps to meet other Jewish children," says Dr. Adler, who was honoured at the Negev Gala on May 30 of this year by the Jewish National Fund.

Adler married Miriam Dashevsky in 1955 in Vegreville, at the old Agudas Israel Synagogue. The couple then moved back to Edmonton, while Bernie finished Dental School. He worked as an associate for Dr. Ken Gordon until his graduation in 1957. He then started his own practice, where he worked part-time, while continuing to work part-time for Dr. Gordon as well. Dr. Mauro Scarslone, a patient of Bernie's and a fellow Dental Student, approached Bernie and asked to work with him as an associate. This relationship continued until 1994, when Bernie sold his practice to him upon his retirement.



Dr. Bernie Adler at his Bar Mitzvah in Vegreville. JAHENA Archive photo.

In addition to his practice, he was the Dental representative on the General Alumni Council of the U of A from 1972 to 1976, becoming the President of the Alumni Council in 1977. He also served on the U of A Senate representing the General Alumni Council and on the Honorary Degree committee from 1975 to 1977. He was also a member of the Board of Governors representing his Alumni council from 1980 to 1982. For its 75th anniversary, he managed to get the Board of Governors to agree to the Faculty of Dentistry having its own convocation.

Adler has always been very involved in Jewish and general community life in Edmonton, both before and after retiring from dentistry. "I joined the Beth Israel Synagogue in 1960 and was in the choir that performed for the High Holiday services with a visiting Cantor like Cantor Vigodaé," he says. "We reactivated a choir for High Holiday service a few years ago. I was a member of the board for many years, served a term as chairman of the board, and became President of Beth Israel in 1974."

"When I retired from dentistry in

1995 I joined the Rotary Club and played the piano for 'O Canada' before the meeting and volunteered for the 'Snack in the Shack Program.' I joined the Jewish Seniors Drop-In Centre and served three terms as a Board Member. I am active with the drop in center Choir and did play the piano for some of the holiday performances."

Bernie Adler's brother, Dr. Eli Adler, was also a dentist, and very active in the Edmonton Jewish Community. He also graduated from the University of Alberta and first practiced in Winnipeg for three years, before returning to Edmonton. He practiced for 44 years. "He was in the Royal Officers training program, and they paid for his education," Bernie explains. Eli Adler was also a Negev Dinner honouree in 1977, the same year the family moved to Ramat Hasharon, Israel for a year, where Eli set up a free dental clinic for children. He was active with JNF for many years, the JCC, local and nationally on the CZE, with Talmud Torah, UJA and B'nai Brith.

Dr. Bernie Adler is not one hundred percent sure who the very first Jewish dentist in Edmonton was, but thinks it may have been Dr. Samuel D. Riskin. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1932. A life member of the Canadian Dental Association, Dr. Riskin died on September



Dr. Eli Adler, 1955. JAHSENA Archives.

20, 2004 at the age of 92.

Another possibility for the first Jewish dentist in Edmonton is Dr. Ben Shlain. Dr. Shlain graduated from dentistry around the same time as Dr. Riskin and first practiced in Mundare, Alberta then later moved to Edmonton and maintained a dental practice in the Tegler Building. Another Jewish dentist, Dr. Leo Lyman, worked with him in Edmonton.

Although not in Edmonton, but close by in Vegreville, was Dr. Sam Hardin, who practiced for about 50 years according to Dr. Adler's estimate. He came to Vegreville around 1930.

Another early Edmonton dentist is Dr. Harold Samuels, who was born on December 2, 1922 in Edmonton. The son of Russian immigrants Ralph and Rose Chmelnitsky, his father was born in a Russian village in 1892 and changed his last name to Samuels after immigrating to Winnipeg. Harold attended Oliver School and Talmud Torah, then later Glenora and Victoria High School. He entered the University of Alberta in 1939 earning a B.Sc. and went on to the Faculty of Dentistry in 1943. While a student at the university, Harold belonged to the Jewish fraternity Sigma Alpha Mu, and joined the Canadian Army Dental Corps after entering Dentistry. He graduated in 1945 and was posted to Dauphin, Regina, and Vancouver and took a position with the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1946 for six months. In 1949 he married Ruth Podersky and established a private dentistry practice. He later took post-graduate training in periodontics at Tufts University and still practices and teaches at the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Alberta.

Although Dr. Bob Margolis was "born in Edmonton, and going to be planted here," his parents moved to Saskatchewan in June of 1929 and due to the Depression, stayed there until 1950. Dr. Margolis took his Bachelor of Arts in Biology at University of Saskatchewan in 1950, then graduated from the U of A's Dentistry faculty in 1954 after moving back to Edmonton with his



Adler family, 1981. JAHENA Archives photo.

family.

Shortly after he graduated from Dentistry, he went to Boston and took post graduate studies at Harvard and Tufts University in Pediatric Dentistry. He returned to Edmonton in late 1955 and went into practice with Dr. Riskin for seven years, after which he went into practice on his own at the Strathcona Medical Dental Building. In addition to his 35 years as a dentist, Dr. Margolis spent 30 years on staff as a permanent part-time Associate Professor with University of Alberta in its pediatric and orthodontic clinic.

Dr. Margolis was a President of the Canadian Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. He received his fellowship in FRCDC in 1968 and was on the Executive of the Edmonton District Dental Society. As far as his involvement in the Jewish community goes, he has been a member of Beth Shalom Synagogue since 1950 when he returned to Edmonton. He has also been a member of B'nai B'rith since that time.

He is also quick to add that he has been a member of the YMCA for 41 years. "I am pretty proud of that because I think that's what's keeping me active at 83 years old."

Retired for 21 years, the father of three and grandfather of two says that he is "busier now than when I was at the univer-



Former Director Dr. Jerrold Diamond, Camp BB Riback reunion, 1991. JAHSENA photo.

sity and in practice!"

A classmate of Dr. Margolis was Dr. Marsden "Bart" Levitt. He graduated from Dentistry alongside Dr. Margolis in 1954 and practised on 118 Avenue. He now resides in B.C.

Dr. Harold Fayerman graduated from the U of A's Dentistry faculty in 1955 and first practised in Wayburn, Saskatchewan, before coming back to Edmonton where he practised in the Meadowlark Professional Building. He was married to Becky Shtrabsky, and was very active in the Jewish Community, serving as President of the

Continued on page 10

Eulogy for Jack Newhouse, z'l

(JUNE 19, 1910-FEBRUARY 2010)

WRITTEN AND READ BY HIS DAUGHTER,
MIRIAM NEWHOUSE.

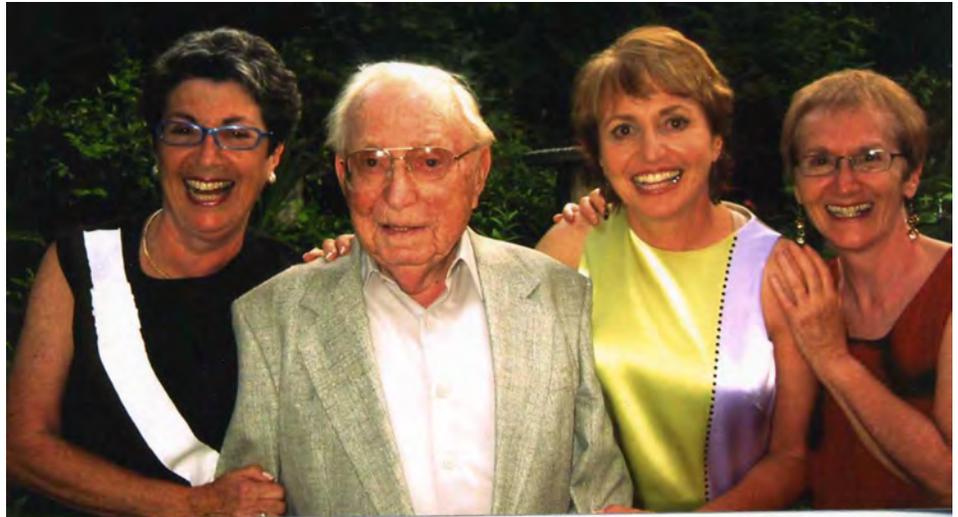
I remember my Auntie Lottie remarking once about early pictures of Dad, that he was always hanging upside down from something – a tree branch, the fence, out of a window – if you wanted to see a picture of Jack Newhouse right side up, then you had to accept that the rest of the world was going to be upside down. Which is often the way it was when Dad was around.

Dad was the only son of Joshua and Rose Newhouse. He was adored and spoiled rotten by his two sisters, Tryna and Lottie. But in return, he was their little champion, who'd protect them and fight for them. The fact that he quite enjoyed the fights for their own sake was just an added bonus.

Because Dad was a scrapper. He was little and he was fast. He always said that being a good runner was essential in those days if you were scrawny, funny-looking and Jewish. But he learned to box and stopped running.

Dad was a natural athlete. He had extraordinary co-ordination and an instinctive grace of movement. He found the Y at thirteen and never looked back. Besides the aforementioned running and boxing, Dad was a gymnast, a high diver, a handball player, a curler, a golfer, and, most amazing of all, a basketball player. We always assumed he was so effective because he was able to run between the other players' legs. He was certainly below their eyeline – they probably didn't even know he was on the court – except he tended to be the one shooting the baskets.

So, Dad grew up in a household of adoring women. It seems he saw the positive benefits of that and, in his own household, ended up with another harem – this time his wife, Fanny; three daughters, Esther



Newhouse family. L-R: Esther-Rose Angel, Jack Newhouse, Judy Miller and Miriam Newhouse, ca. 1990. JAHSENA photo, donated by Judy Newhouse Miller.

Rose, Miriam and Judy; a bird and a dog (both female).

And I have to say, he was the coolest dad in the neighbourhood. Other dads entertained little kids in the traditional way – you know, the severed thumb trick – that sort of thing. But our Dad – he was the one doing really bad tricks – like showing us how he could swallow a lighted cigarette. Now that was cool!

Both before and after Mum and Dad were married, Dad travelled as salesman for Newhouse Wholesale, the wholesale grocery started by his father. He had story after story about his life on the road, which he would tell at the drop of a hat. One of my favourites of his travelling tales was about the time he was driving from St. Paul to Edmonton to get married. It was the middle of May, but it was ice all the way. He said it was more like skating than driving. Along the road he counted fourteen cars in the ditch. He'd then add that he was so nervous about getting married, he kind of hoped he'd be number fifteen.

Dad and Mum had the warmest, happiest, most loving relationship for 44 years. As children, we thought every household was like ours – where laughter regularly rang out at the dinner table. It was quite an eye-opener to discover later in life that other families just didn't have as much fun as we did. How lucky we were.

We've heard people say about our father that he had a charmed life – but there were tough spots. The death of his father – Dad revered him – and many of his best stories were about Grandpa. The loss of his business was a blow. Our mother's death – the biggest blow of all.

But maybe those people who said his life was charmed were right. Because after the love of his life, my mother, died, Dad met a little lady, Rose, and after 44 years with our mum, Dad embarked on his second romantic adventure, one that lasted another 24 years. As our cousin Michael says, he's had two wonderful lives.

Besides his close family, Dad had two great loves – women in general and children. And both those groups reciprocated with the greatest enthusiasm. I think the women responded to his charm, his sense of fun, his obvious appreciation and his adorable smile. The candy handouts didn't hurt, either. I think children instinctively recognized that he was one of them. Because I think there was a part of Dad that never grew up – that remained the same funny, impish little kid with a quick quip and a quicker jab.

For a little guy, Jack Newhouse cast a huge shadow. People who knew him count themselves lucky. For those of us who were in the charmed inner circle – we're the luckiest of all.

Book fingers former Alberta top cop as young Israeli's killer

BY ERIC VOLMERS AND SHERRI ZICKEFOOSE,
CALGARY HERALD; CANWEST NEWS SERVICE
APRIL 19, 2010

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

The description of the murder is brutal and brief. It was more than 60 years ago, somewhere along a lonely stretch of road between Jerusalem and Jericho. A 16-year-old boy, Alexander Rubowitz, was abducted by a shadowy team of "special forces" British policemen while putting up posters for the Zionist cause in what was then a British-ruled Palestine.

He was taken to an unknown location in an unmarked police car, most likely to a remote olive grove in the Judean Hills about an hour outside of the city. He was then interrogated, tortured and finally beaten to death with a rock.

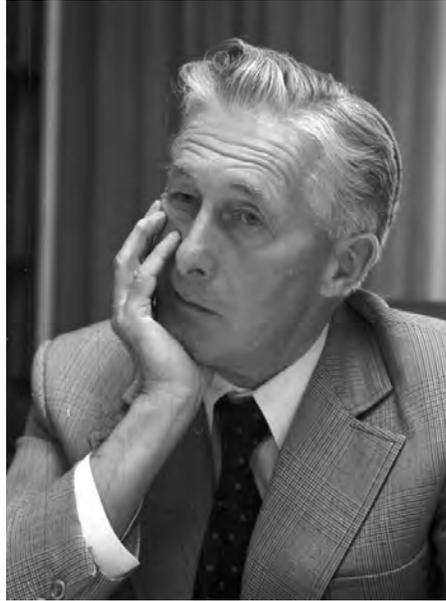
His body was stripped and stabbed repeatedly, his clothes burned. His remains were never found and his killers never brought to justice.

But the identity of the murderer is no longer in question according to British author David Cesarani's historical book *Major Farran's Hat: Murder, Scandal and Britain's War Against Jewish Terrorism*.

"Roy Farran picked up a rock and smashed it against the boy's head," Cesarani writes. "After one or more blows Alexander Rubowitz died."

Farran is was a war hero, a newspaper publisher and the one-time solicitor general of Alberta.

This part of the story, Cesarani insists, is not conjecture. In 2004, declassified files from a nearly 60-year-old police report surfaced in the National Archives in London, England. For Cesarani, a University of London research professor who has made his



Roy Farran Fingered, PAA photo J4315,
Edmonton Journal Collection.

academic name as an expert in Jewish history, this puts to rest the mystery surrounding the fate of Rubowitz.

Cesarani's book claims he was murdered in cold blood by Farran.

"He was a charming man," says Cesarani from his home in London. "He was funny ... Everybody who met him remembered him fondly."

"But," Cesarani adds, "he also had a dark side. He was a trained killer. He was merciless."

On June 12, 2006, Farran was given a hero's burial with a military guard leading a procession 10 blocks to his final resting place in Calgary. More in-depth obituaries would make passing reference to the fact this revered man – who battled everything from Nazis in the Second World War to fluoridation in Alberta – spent most of his life under the dark shadow of an unsolved mystery.

Cesarani's book, released last year, is seen by some as the historical equivalent of a smoking gun that outlines Rubowitz's fate.

The book paints a picture of a British Empire in its dying years, struggling to maintain control of a chaotic Palestine. Farran comes across, much like he does in his own 1948 memoir *Winged Dagger*, as a globe-trotting soldier exceptionally skilled at both covert operations and killing his enemies.

Cesarani doesn't downplay Farran's wartime heroism, but suggests its genesis stemmed from his deep commitment to imperialism.

Born in England and raised in British India, Farran would go on to become one of the most decorated soldiers of the Second World War.

He was three times awarded the Military Cross and earned a reputation for ruthless efficiency as an SAS officer.

In 1946, he came to Palestine at the end of the British mandate, setting up "Q" patrols with the Palestine police to infiltrate Jewish terrorist cells that were trying to push the British out of the region.

Not long after arriving in the Middle East, Cesarani claims, Farran became resolutely anti-Zionist.

This, Cesarani argues, was Farran's state of mind when patrolling the streets on May 6, 1947, when he came across Rubowitz.

According to the book, Farran confessed to killing the teenager to his superior officer the next day. Other incriminating evidence surfaced.

Most damning was the discovery of a hat found at the scene that appeared to contain Farran's name on a label.

After fleeing to Syria, Farran was eventually charged with murder and faced a military court in southwest Jerusalem on Oct. 1, 1947.

But through legal manoeuvring, the alleged confession never made it to the trial, Cesarani says. The hat could not be proven to be Farran's.

The next day, without a body or any eyewitnesses, Farran was acquitted.

But Farran didn't go into hiding.

He married in 1950 and moved to Calgary, initially to become a dairy farmer.

He then founded newspapers, entered municipal politics and eventually became Alberta's solicitor general under then-premier Peter Lougheed.

Despite Farran's position of power, accusations of the past murder and a long-standing coverup by the British military were never far behind.

"That rumour's been floating around for a long time. I remember in the Senate people asking about that," says former senator Ron

Continued on page 11

JAHSENA Member Publishes Book

Dr. Sterling Haynes, JAHSENA member and Heritage/Yerusha contributor, has published his 3rd book of collected stories and reminiscences of his practice as a frontier doctor in Edmonton and the surrounding area.

Dr. Haynes is an amateur historian and son of noted Edmonton drama instructor Elizabeth Sterling Haynes, who strongly influenced Jewish community members Joe Shoctor and Arthur Hiller, as well as many other Drama students at the University of Alberta.

He himself was closely associated with a number of community physicians, including Dr. Harry Weinlos, Dr. Elliot Corday and Dr. Ted Shnitka, and has written about them for JAHSENA. These and many other stories of early medicine in the Province of Alberta are detailed in "Tales of a Frontier Doctor," which details Dr. Haynes adventures in early medicine in Alberta, Alabama and BC and is published by Caitlin Press.

The stories range in scope from saving his mother's life through a blood transfusion at the age of 9 to advising American tourists to Canada about SARS, Mad Cow Disease and West Nile Virus.



Dr. Sterling Haynes.
Supplied photo.

NEW MEMBERS:

JAHSENA would like to welcome the following new members:

Connie & Danny Zalmanowitz,
Edmonton, Alberta

Erica Karabus, Edmonton, Alberta



Dr. Harold Fayerman, Israeli Prime Minister Yigal Allon and Henry Brezer at a UJA function in Edmonton ca. 1975. JAHSENA Archives photo.

DENTISTS IN EDMONTON

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Edmonton Jewish Community Council, and of the board of Talmud Torah School, as well as UJA and Israel Bonds.

Dr. Jack Margolus has a connection to Edmonton's dental history through his association with Dr. Eli Adler for 14 months in the Meadowlark Professional Building in May of 1977, the same year Dr. Margolus graduated from the U of A's Dentistry faculty. Born and raised in Edmonton, Dr. Margolus also associated with Dr. Sam Riskin at the Baker Centre for nine months while waiting for the completion of the Westgrove Professional Building. In practice for 33 years, Dr. Margolus has been at Westgrove for 31. He credits his cousin, Dr. Bob Margolis (they are part of the same family despite the spelling variation in their names), for his decision to enter the dental profession. "He is an extremely nice guy and definitely contributed to my high opinion of the profession when making my decision to become a dentist," he says. Margolus attended Talmud Torah, was a BBYO member in his teens, has been a lifetime member of Beth Shalom Synagogue, and served on the JCC board for one year. His father, Burton Margolus, was a community leader for many years, serving on the boards of the Edmonton

Jewish Community Council, B'nai Brith, Talmud Torah and many others.

Dr. Jerrold L. Diamond is part of the newer generation of Jewish dentists practicing in Edmonton. He is originally from Calgary and graduated from the U of A's Faculty of Dentistry in 1991. "I have attended the Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies (LVI is an advanced training centre in neuromuscular dentistry), and am presently a member of the faculty club at the Scottsdale Centre for Dentistry in Arizona," he says of his continued study and professional achievements, which also include being a member in good standing with the Alberta Dental Association, the Edmonton and District Dental Society, and the Canadian Dental Association. Dr. Diamond has recently become a part of the APEX mentoring program at the Boston University Henry H. Goldman School of Dental Medicine, and will be mentoring an intern from the University until July of 2010. In addition, he has been a mentor for first year dental students from the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta for several years.

Other Jewish Dentists who practice or have practiced in Edmonton include: Dr. Bella Andler, Dr. Mila Lutsky, and Dr. Milana Levin.

Are archivists today's real peacemakers?

NEW YORKER BLOG POSTED BY WWW.NEWYORKER.COM
SEARCH SITE FOR CONTENT BY MEREDITH BLAKE.

Politicians, beauty queens, and rock stars all claim they want world peace. But could the unassuming archivist, more likely to be found buried in a stack of yellowing newspapers than at a global summit, be the true peacemaker of our time?

That was the prevailing theme at the Scone Foundation's "Archivist of the Year" awards, held last week at the CUNY Graduate Center: archivists aren't here merely to perform the dutiful-but-dull task of preservation, but to defend civil liberties, encourage transparency, and maybe – just maybe – facilitate historical reconciliation between former enemies. Underscoring the idea of archivist-as-peacemaker, this year's award was shared by representatives of both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Khader Salameh of the Al-Aqsa Mosque Library in Jerusalem, and Yehoshua Freundlich of the Israel State Archives.

David Myers, the director of U.C.L.A.'s Center for Jewish Studies, spoke gracefully on the evening's subject, saying that "the potential of the archive is not merely to preserve, but to liberate." His belief is that through the dedicated work of archivists, it may be possible for Israelis and Palestinians to "craft a shared history that honors, with self-critical honesty, both traditions." As possible inspiration, he cited "Histoire-Geschichte," a history textbook about post-war Europe <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/4972922.stm> co-authored by French and German experts.

Columbia's Rashid Khalidi, though a shade or two more skeptical than Myers, was nevertheless insistent that preserving the records of the Palestinian people was a critical step in the peace process, particularly in the ongoing absence of a Palestinian state or even a centralized archive. Vital as it may be, preservation often takes a back seat to more dire needs, said Khalidi. "There always seem to be more pressing needs elsewhere."

Previous "Archivist of the Year" honoree

Saad Eskander proves just how dangerous – and how urgent – the work of an archivist can be. The former Kurdish fighter returned to his native Iraq in 2003 to work as director of the Iraqi National Library in Baghdad. In a captivating online diary, Eskander chronicled his brave efforts at reclaiming his nation's history from a variety of threats: mold, car bombs, Baath loyalists, Muslim fundamentalists. The blog provided a window into the bipolar demands of his job, from mundane administrative questions, like where to install new air conditioners, to the virtually unthinkable – snipers, death threats, and even the kidnapping and murder of two staff librarians.

In less dramatic fashion, another previous honoree, John Taylor, of the U.S. National Archives, was once hailed by Maureen Dowd as one of Washington's true "macho heroes" after standing up to Dick Cheney. The vice-president and his famously aggressive legal team insisted that Cheney was not a member of the executive branch, and therefore did not need to provide access to his records to archivists. In turn, the archivists filed a complaint with the Department of Justice. As Dowd wrote, "When [Cheney] tried to push around the little guys, the National Archive data collectors – I'm visualizing dedicated 'We the People' wonky types with glasses and pocket protectors – they pushed back."

Let's hear it for the wonks. The White House's famously aggressive legal team insisted that Cheney was not a member of the executive branch, and therefore did not need to provide access to his records to archivists. In turn, the archivists filed a complaint with the Department of Justice. As Dowd wrote, "When [Cheney] tried to push around the little guys, the National Archive data collectors – I'm visualizing dedicated 'We the People' wonky types with glasses and pocket protectors – they pushed back."

Let's hear it for the wonks.

YOUNG ISRAELI'S KILLER

Continued from page 9

Ghitter. "Clearly, there was a price on Roy's head."

In the 1948 first-edition version of *Winged Dagger*, Farran claims "at the time of the alleged kidnapping I was having dinner with three Arabs in another part of Jerusalem. Everyone knew that that was an unshakable alibi."

In the chapter entitled *Escape From Palestine, 1947*, Farran goes on to suggest he was being "thrown to the wolves" for political reasons.

But Cesarani insists proof of Farran's guilt is now on file.

"When I went to the public records . . . and had a look at that file, there was absolutely no doubt from what it contained," Cesarani says.

"The police investigation into the disappearance into Alexander Rubowitz concluded that Roy Farran had murdered him and that Roy had himself admitted to the killing of Alexander Rubowitz in a statement he made to his boss and superior."

Many of the witnesses who may have been able to back Cesarani's claims have long since died. Farran is no longer around to defend himself.

In Israel, Rubowitz remains a symbol of the Zionist struggle.

Certainly the incident came at a key time in Middle East politics. Within a few weeks of Farran's acquittal, Britain pulled out of Palestine. In November 1947, the United Nations voted in favour of the partition of Palestine and proposed the creation of a Jewish state, an Arab state, and a UN-administered Jerusalem. Israel declared independence in 1948.

For those who knew Farran in Alberta, reopening the Rubowitz case is a pointless assault on his memory.

"He's gone and dead now. What can be gained? It's better to keep in him in fond memory," says Ghitter.

"I prefer to remember him in a very positive light. He contributed considerably during his public life in Alberta. He had a remarkable life."

JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

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

500 Yiddish books on miscellaneous Jewish subjects, donated to the JCC Library, by Leo Superstein. These books were sent to the National Yiddish Book Centre in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Eulogy of Edith Kay, z'l, donated by Miriam Rabinovitch.

Oral History Interview with Abner Rubin, by Susan Lieberman.

10 cm misc. text and photos relating to Na'amat Edmonton, donated by Sylvia Alpern.

Three eulogies for Jack Newhouse, z'l, donated by Judy Newhouse Miller.

1m textual records relating to the Edmonton Jewish Community, donated by Uri Rosenzweig.

Edmonton Jewish Demographics, UIA Federations Canada, National Task Force on Jewish Demographics, 2010.

Eulogies of Norman Silverman, z'l, donated by Ruth-Ellen Shafir.

Eulogy of Alex Rubin, z'l, donated by Abner Rubin.

5 cm. newspaper clippings and other miscellaneous text, donated by Sharon Abbott.

An outline of Jim Keegstra's teachings to his Social Studies class in Eckville, Alberta, from 1978-1981. Donated by Crown Prosecutor J. Steven Koval, Q.C., via Arielle Wener.

Three handbooks to the Holocaust Symposium presented by the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada, 2002, 2003 and 2004. Donated by Dr. Dianne Kipnes.

95 photos and 1 cm of text relating to the Beth Israel Synagogue, donated by Dr. Bernie Adler.

"Our House in Leova: a Memoir by Jacob Baltzan," English translation donated by Marvin Horwitz, Yiddish by Joel Waters.

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.

DONATION CARDS

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

SYMPATHY

To the family of Joe Tabachnick, z'l, from the Board of JAHSENA, and from Marshall and Debby Shoctor.

To the family of Jack Newhouse, z'l, from the Board of JAHSENA, and from Marshall and Debby Shoctor.

To the family of Rachel Dolgoy, z'l, from the Board of JAHSENA, and from Marshall and Debby Shoctor; Dan and Esther Kauffman; Ed and Joy-Ruth Mickelson.

To the family of Harold Rodnunsky, z'l, from the Board of JAHSENA.

To the family of Ansel Mark, z'l, from the Board of JAHSENA.

Help Us Preserve Our Past for the Future!

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

Enclosed is my cheque for \$_____ Payable to the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and

Northern Alberta (JAHSENA).

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number _____ Email: _____

Visa/MC Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

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