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HERITAGE

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

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Jewish Communities at Alberta Lakes



Charles and Ida Margolus at Crystal Springs c.1941



Can You Identify These Ladies?

Happy Purim!



From the President

HOWARD DAVIDOW

December 2018

I take this opportunity to thank Miriam Rabinovitch for her many years of dedication to JAHSENA, both as a respected board member and as a hands-on volunteer. Miriam has retired from the board after serving three terms beginning in 2009. Since 2011 Miriam has been the Vice-President of Membership and Chair of all of our casinos. Casinos are JAHSENA's main source of funding and memberships are our life blood. We all owe Miriam a huge thank you for her tireless service to our organization. Yasher koachaich, Miriam!

At the same time we welcome Susan Binnington to our board, and to her new undertaking after retirement from the profession of pharmacy. Susan has somewhat wider experience in Northern Alberta than most of us, having grown up in Vegreville. Welcome aboard, Susan.

In this edition we will feature a new article by a former Board member. Eric Schloss has once again taken pen to paper (does anyone still use a pen?) and provided us with a most informative article about the Alberta lakes and the connection to Northern Alberta Jewish families. We can all remember with appreciation Eric's recently published history in these very pages of the first Jewish families in the villages to the northeast of Edmonton in the early years of the 20th century. We look forward to your latest contribution, Eric.

As you may be aware we relocated in September from the second floor to the main floor of the building on 156 Street that houses the JCC. Thank you, Colleen

Paull for managing it, George and Judy Goldsand, Jini Vogel, Alex Krimberg, Penny Hardin, Karen Farkas, Debby Shoctor and Dani Uretsky for all your help with the move.

Thanks to the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation for your generous grant which we used to replace our laptop computer and broken photocopier with up to date and faster models. We appreciate your support.

Trudy Cowan is an author from Calgary who has worked in the heritage and museum fields for many years. Among her other accomplishments she helped relocate the Little Synagogue on the Prairie to Calgary's Heritage Park. Trudy was our featured speaker at the AGM on December 16. She kept us spellbound with her narrative of the Spanish Flu of 1918 and its impact on the world, as well as a history of other plagues and pandemics. Among her other publications, she authored a children's book entitled "Quarantine Keep Out", specifically about the victims of the flu in southern Alberta and its effect on their families. The Little Synagogue was used as an isolation ward for these people. It is a book for children of all ages. Highly recommended reading. A further interesting note is that Ruth Ellen Shafir's grandfather, Dr. Silverman, was one of the physicians who treated the suffering. Thank you, Trudy.

We invite you all to entrust us with your histories, photos, artifacts and suggestions for programming that we may be able to help present.

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The Journal of the Jewish
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New Board Member from the AGM!



Susan Binnington (Lucow)

SUSAN BINNINGTON (LUCOW)

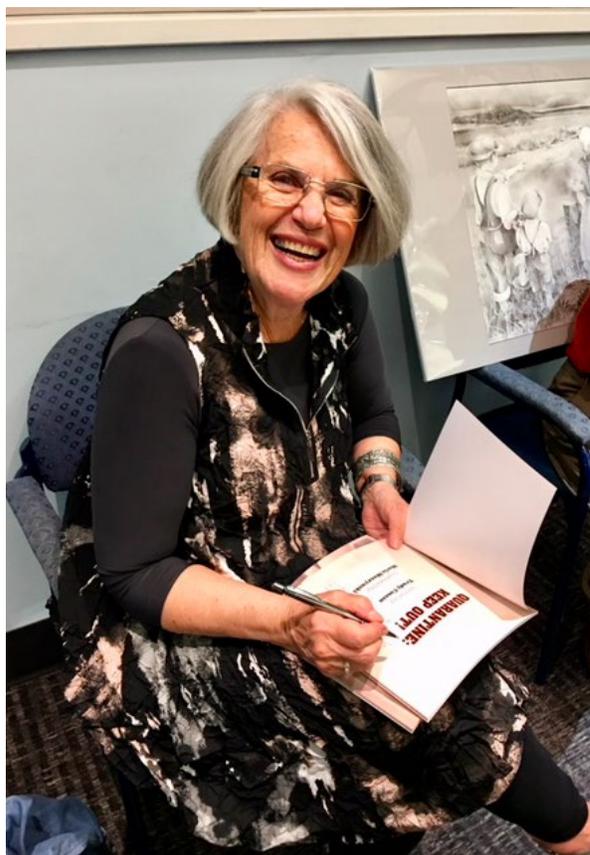
Susan (Lucow) was born and grew up in Vegreville, Alberta, as part of a small but active Jewish community. In 1970, she moved to Edmonton to attend the University of Alberta. Susan retired from her career as a pharmacist about a year ago and now devotes more time to researching her family history. She is an active member of Temple Beth Ora and also enjoys volunteering with YONA (Youth Orchestra of Northern Alberta), an outreach program of the Edmonton Symphony that uses music to promote social change among underserved inner city children.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from page 2

As always, we express our gratitude to our archivist and editor Colleen Paull who finds artifacts and money for us and accomplishes the myriad of tasks, with the help of our past and present board members, that enable JAHSENA to provide quality services to our community.

Sadly, Miriam Rabinovitch passed away in January, 2019, after this report was written. JAHSENA extends heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.



Trudy Cowan, May 2018

JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

These items have recently found their way into the archives:

Newspaper articles, booklets (announcements, notices, bar/bat mitzvahs, etc.), photos from WW1, family photos, report cards and various other papers from Abner Rubin;

The book "Storm the Gates of Jericho" by Abraham L. Feinberg donated by Phil Lister;

Writing Family Jewish Stories & Memoirs, Workshop booklet c.2010 from Phyllis Nurgitz;

Newspaper articles from a variety of Jewish publications, the Edmonton Journal, organization and event booklets, ledgers & record books, letters and photos from Cory Felber;

Cemetery Map and Plot Ledger, 2018, written and donated by Cory Felber;

JNF certificate for trees in Canadian Hadassah Forest in Palestine c. 1948 from Izzy Gleiner;

Family photos, articles, report cards, passports, organization records, marriage & birth certificates, nursing cap & army cap, both from WW1 and various other papers from the Soifer family.

The following families have all donated photos for this portion of The Alberta Lakes series by Dr. Eric Schloss: Beverley Kort, Robert & Brandy Graesser, Larry Witten, Sol Rolinger, Beth Price, Abe Silverman, Shirley Gitter, Tanya Kaplan, Beth Rudolph, Joan Goldstein, Susan Lieberman, Sondra Schloss Lampert and the Samuels family.

As always, special thanks to Sharon Abbott for her continuing to sift through all local publications to bring us clippings, invitations and articles for the archives.



Eric and Barry Schloss rowing the boat c. mid 1940's

Jewish Communities

at Alberta Lakes Part 1

By Eric Schloss

As Canada has the largest number of lakes of any country in the world, it is not surprising that our Jewish community has taken great advantage of holidays and excursions to the lakeshores and beaches, particularly in Alberta but also to neighbouring or more distant provinces.

In Alberta the most popular destination lakes have been Pigeon and Wabamun where many have owned or rented lake cottages or cabins, but many other lake destinations have also been popular and will be covered in these articles. As so many have vivid lake memories, it is inevitable that we will likely miss many in our community and encourage those who have not been mentioned to send in their lake accounts and photos to JAHSENA.

PIGEON LAKE

The lake of most vivid memory and personal experience to many in our community is Pigeon Lake located 25 miles west of Wetaskiwin on Highway 13 but also reachable south of Calmar or Thorsby. There are 10 summer villages and four unincorporated communities around the lake that accommodate approximately 2,300 private cottages. It is the largest lake in central Alberta at 37.3 sq. miles in area and originally, and perhaps even now, has accommodated most of the lake vacationers in our community, although Lake Wabamun would be a close second. Originally, Ma-Me-O Beach on the east and southeast side was the most popular for the Edmonton and district Jewish community.

The large Pigeon Lake Indian Reserve surrounds Ma-Me-O Beach and the lake was originally called "Woodpecker Lake" until 1858 as the Cree word for woodpecker is Hmi-hmoo (Ma-Me-O). The Reserve is shared by four indigenous Cree bands numbering approximately 700 members including the Samson Cree Nation, the Montana Cree Nation, the Louis Bull Tribe and the Ermineskin Cree Nation. Over half of the members belong to the Samson First Nation group and they are all affiliated with the same groups as Maskwacis (formerly Hobbema). During our time at the lake the indigenous men would frequently sell whitefish to the cottage residents but after the oil exploration in the late 1940s and the early 1950s the fish stocks dropped with increased



Left to right: Barry Schloss, Fred Engle, Eric Schloss, Raphael Engle, Sondra Schloss, Monica Engle c.1943



Roslyn Slutker, Phyllis Slawsky, Judy Shuler, Molly (Perler) Shugarman, baby c.1961

pollution and it has taken some time to try to recover. The indigenous people would have an annual “pow-wow” on the beach road with drums and chanting and in those days of absence of political correctness the vacationers at the lake and their children would usually parade down the road in aboriginal dress with feathers in their hair!

When I was growing up in Camrose, many of our friends there had cottages at Ma-Me-O, and my parents rented a cottage every month of July starting in the late 1930s until approximately 1954. It was a direct drive of 25 miles to Wetaskiwin from Camrose and a further 25 miles to Ma-Me-O all on Highway 13. We would all be excited when, just over the last hill on the highway, the gleaming lake was first sighted.

Utilities at the lake were largely not available until the 1960s. Prior to that, the beach road was unpaved and sandy (or tarry), there was no electricity or running water in the cabins and cottages and the kids read their comic books under a coal oil lamp. Pails were car-

ried to a pump down the beach road to collect water. Washing clothes needed a scrubbing board and the stove required wood or coal. Flat irons were used to iron clothes. Blocks of ice for the necessary ice box and groceries were delivered to the cottages from the Jackson store across from the central main pier and the popular log cabin dance hall. At the dance hall, the only musical entertainment was from an old Victrola with wired tips usually playing old Harry Lauder English songs. Without any indoor plumbing the outhouses were a fixture for years and were often given names such as “Old Faithful”. Our friends, the Byers family of Camrose, makers of Sunny Boy cereal, named their outhouse “Tatamagouche” after their original family home on Cape Breton Island (maybe they didn’t have fond memories of it).

Many families spent the entire summers at the lake with the husbands and fathers commuting on weekends. My

Continued on next page



Harry Perler, Ma-Me-O c.1939

sister Sondra remembers in July 1941, three of our four aunts had cottages next to ours, Fanny Samuels, Edmonton; Ada Schloss, Stettler; and Sarah Engle, Calgary. Communication could be difficult, especially in an emergency, as the only public phone (requiring collect calls) was at the Jackson store. All kids at the lake enjoyed riding horses provided by Mr. Jackson (father of the operators of the store) at his stables near the centre of the village. Most of us learned to ride on the slowest horses, Dolly and Queenie.

Cottages and cabins were often given unusual and often humorous names and my aunt **Ada Schloss** rented a cabin one summer for her family called "Damnifiknow". When ordering groceries to be delivered, the clerk at Jackson's store asked where to send them. When she told him he said, "Lady if you don't know, how am I supposed to know!" Our long-term cottage mainly through the 1940s was north of the main pier and village centre and was appropriately named "Linger Longer". In our last summer at Ma-Me-O, circa 1954, the **Shulers** and our family had adjoining cottages named "Who Knows?" and "Who Cares?"

Many others of the Jewish community in Edmonton and district were regular

fixtures at Ma-Me-O. **Harry and Ann Perler** from Wetaskiwin started to rent a summer cottage as early as the mid 1930s. After Harry Perler's early tragic death in 1944, his wife Ann and her brother Sheppe Slutker purchased lots for adjoining cottages which were soon constructed. **Molly Perler (Shugarman)** and her brother **Sonny (Zelick)** enjoyed all their childhood summers at the cottage and Molly has continued to spend her summer months there, often with her children and grandchildren. Her husband, **Maurice**, switched allegiance from the Shugarman cottage at Lake Wabamun when he was dating Molly. She told me that during their courtship he painted the outhouse and she was so impressed they married in 1960! They soon anointed the cottage as "The Sugar Bowl". Frequent visitors were Molly's close friends such as **Phyllis Slawsky** and countless others, plus her close cousin **Roz (Slutker) Steinberg** of Calgary who has been in frequent attendance at the cottage since their shared childhood in Wetaskiwin.

Sheppe and Millie Slutker and their four sons, **Sonny, Zeke (Zelick), Blondie (Jack) and David** also regularly spent their summers in the adjoining cottage, appropriately named "Boys Inn" until the 1960s. Other members of the

Slutker family often visited, and **Don Charnaw** liked his time at the lake with the Perlers and Slutkers so much that he gave up going to B'nai Brith camp to spend time at Ma-Me-O beach.

Abe and Rose Brody with their son **Eugene** were early cottage owners at Ma-Me-O and resided on the other (south) side of the main pier. Eugene, who had to cope with cerebral palsy, was often seen on the beach road on his large tricycle and always had a friendly and warm greeting for everyone. Rose Brody's brother, **Lou Ragosin, and his wife Vera**, close friends of my parents, were frequent visitors from Wetaskiwin where he operated Brody's department store. The Ragosins, and eventually their son **Nathan and his wife Mildred**, also from Wetaskiwin, obtained their own cottage, and their children, **David and Esther**, until at least the 1960s, spent their childhood summers at the lake where David's bright red hair was very noticeable on the beach.

The related families comprised of the **Rudolphs, Nozicks and Lyons** had adjoining cottages a short distance north of the Perler/Slutker compound. Irving and Lottie Lyons and Louis and Tryna Rudolph initially shared a cottage prior to 1946 and then the Rudolphs purchased the corner cottage while the



Nomi Rudolph & Louis Rudolph relaxing at Ma-Me-O c.1979



Tryna Rudolph, Joel Price, Nomi Rudolph, Lottie Lyons c.1979



Dr. Earl Gitter, Ma-Me-O Beach c.1974



Judy Shuler and Eric Schloss circa 1953

Lyons took the cottage two lots south. The middle cottage was bought and occupied by Leo and Evelyn Nozick and eventually by their son Mandle with his wife Norma and their two daughters Merrilee and Hanita. The Rudolfs, with their son Ross and daughters Beth (Price) and Naomi enjoyed many happy years at the lake. Beth and Dr. Lorne Price of Calgary continue to own the original Rudolph property and have spent summers at Ma-Me-O often with their children for the last 35 to 40 years.

Mandle and Norma Nozick spent much leisure and vacation time at their cottage for many years since at least the 1950s until Mandle's tragic death near the lake in 2008. Merrilee Newstone of Victoria and Hanita and Aaron Dagan of Calgary still own and use the Nozick cottage with their children.

The Lyons, with their two sons David and Ricky, were regular summer Ma-Me-O residents for years and were often visited by the Newhouse family with their three daughters. The cottage was finally sold after Lottie Lyons' death in 1990.

Muriel and Jake Wener with their daughter **Shirley** occupied the smaller guesthouse behind the Rudolph cottage for several years in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Later, **Dr. Barney and Florence Mass** (Morris) and their children, **Philip and Sherry**, enjoyed it for a

summer vacation home.

Beth (Rudolph) Price and her brother **Ross Rudolph** shared memories of the lake and commented on the wonderful camaraderie of the Jewish summer dwellers at Ma-Me-O. They recall wonderful times swimming, horseback riding, bonfires, roasting marshmallows and singing songs on the beach plus the many card games and monopoly played, particularly on a rainy day. Luckily, they had access to their dad's transistor radio, a luxury no one else had. Other vivid recollections were of Norma Nozick's theatrical productions complete with costumes and makeup, plus her poetry contests.

Lorne and Beth provided a long list of other lingering impressions at Ma-Me-O beach including the spectacular sunsets nightly visible directly across the lake, frightening lake storms, and suntanning on the boathouse (before the concern of the effects of excessive sun exposure and regular use of sun blocks), and building sand castles on the beach with their children. They also vividly recall less pleasant encounters with occasional bats in the cottage and skunks under it releasing their nauseous odor, plus occasional visits from foxes. As with all summers in Alberta, mosquitoes and their bites were ubiquitous.

Continued on next page



Sondra 7 yrs, Eric 7 mo, c. July 1939



Charles Margolus with Joel, David, Beverley c.1952



Charles and Ida Margolus at Crystal Springs c.1941

Other early families at Ma-Me-O in the 1940s and early 1950s included; **Ben and Ida Ostry** and their children **Noni and Bobby**, **John and Anne Shuler** with daughters **Judy (Goldsand)** and **Barbara** and son **Mark**, and **Hymie and Celia Baltzan** with their three daughters. One summer the **Bercov family**, with sons **Sid and Ron** (then known as Butch), had a cottage next door to us at “Linger Longer”.

Louis and Esther Slawsky and two of their children, Phyllis and the young Barry, rented a summer cottage at Ma-Me-O beach named Shady Nook from 1954 to 1958. Barry said his mother won Norma Nozick’s poetry contest with her distinguished literary contribution, “We live at Shady Nook and tolerate no yuk!” (Yiddish translation?)

Charles and Ida Margolus broke the Ma-Me-O trend by having a beautiful log cottage and lakefront property at Crystal Springs, a short distance southwest. They enjoyed many summers there with their children and grandchildren from the late 1930s to the 1950s. **Leyla (Margolus) Sacks** and her sister **Shirley Kort** were usually there in the early years and many friends and visitors commented that Shirley looked like a

glamorous movie queen in her bathing costume. Shirley’s daughter, **Bev Kort** of Vancouver, is compiling the Margolus family history and has provided photos for this article. The Margolus cottage was later bought by **Eli and Serena Shtabsky** in the early 1970s and they enjoyed it for a few years before they moved to Phoenix.

Wolfe and Seda Margolus bought their own beautiful log cottage at Ma-Me-O further south from the main pier in the early 1950s, and with their daughter **Rona** and sons **Michael, David and Joel** enjoyed summers there until selling the property to the **Sky family** around 1966. The Sky’s, with their children named the cottage “HaShamayim” (heaven, or in this case, heavenly water) obviously reflecting their feelings about their prize possession. The **Sorokin families** would often visit and Nordie and Tessie (Sorokin) Finkelstein would come for extended periods. Anita eventually sold the property in the early 1980s.

Another family to later establish at Ma-Me-O was **Dr. Earl and Shirley Ghitter** and their children who, while living in Wetaskiwin, rented a cottage for a few years in the 1960s before purchasing their own in 1969/70), which



4th generation of cabin goers. Left to right: Jake, Tristan, Josh, Asher and Cohen Graesser c. Aug 2017

was located close to Molly and Maurice Shugarman. They regularly attended the lake until eventually selling the property after 2000.

Many others have acquired properties at Pigeon Lake mainly on other beaches on all sides of the lake. Mulhurst Bay and Silver Beach were an initial popular area in addition to Ma-Me-O. They are located on the more northerly side and reachable directly south of Calmar or southwest of Millet. **Joan (Workun) Goldstein’s** family from Leduc initially rented a cottage at Mulhurst Bay in 1942 where she and her sister Pat enjoyed their childhood summers. Her father eventually purchased a lakefront cottage lot in 1956 on Silver Beach directly east of The Village of Mulhurst and Abe and Joan have continued to spend much time there in the summers with their children and grandchildren. They extensively remodelled the cottage in 1982.

Tom Owen, son of Peter and Violet Owen, and his wife Lyne Ruzicka shared her family’s cottage on Silver Beach which was initially purchased by her parents in 1948. More recently, they have their own cottage across the lake on Poplar Bay.

Next door to the Ruzicka property,



Rob & Brandy Graesser, Gwen & Ed Graesser. Silver Beach c.1976



Wit's End at Mulhurst Bay c. 2010

Aaron and Cecile Shtabsky bought their own cottage in the early 1980s and they and their daughters enjoyed approximately 15 years there before eventually moving to Phoenix. They had a beautiful back yard in which Aaron happily raced around seated on his small tractor.

Other long-time residents at Silver Beach are **Brandy and Rob Graesser**. Rob's parents bought their lake property in 1954. It had been the Mulhurst town bakery and was a small log cabin without power or water. By the time Brandy and Rob were married in 1975, electricity had been added plus a cold water tap in the kitchen. Rob has provided a photo of their grandsons, the fourth generation of Graessers to enjoy the lake. **Daryl and Renee Katz** recently sold their beautiful, large Silver Beach property which they had maintained for over 15 years.

As other beaches at Pigeon Lake opened in the late 1950s and 1960s, members of the Jewish community began to populate them, mainly starting in the 1970s.

Larry and Marielle Witten have had their cottage and property at Mulhurst Bay (near the entrance of Argentia Beach) since 1971. Larry developed a

love affair with the lake initially as a teenager while visiting the Slutker boys at Ma-Me-O (and likely enjoying their parties). The Witten's sons and now grandchildren have spent many happy days and weeks at the lake continuing to this day. The cottage is labelled the "Wits End". Earlier in the 1970s, **Esther and Marty Bernstein** also had a cottage on Argentia Beach before they moved to Victoria.

Sol Rolingher bought his property at Fisher Home on the western side of the lake in 1974. During our days at Ma-Me-O we knew there was a mysterious place called Fisher Home directly across the lake but thought nobody lived there. Sol had grown up with his parents and siblings during summers at Lake Wabamun but switched his focus to Pigeon Lake. He bought what was considered the oldest building on the lake (1898) and soon rebuilt and remodelled it for frequent use, initially with his family, and now for many years with his wife **Marilyn**. He is very knowledgeable about the history of the area and the adjacent Mission Beach area has been named a National Historic Site. It was the region that the Methodist

Continued on next page



Goldstein Cabin, Pigeon



Seda and Rona Margolus in the boat, summer 1942



Molly Shugarman #1, Harriet & Elliott Shugarman, Molly Shugarman #2 c.2000



Ruth, Arlene, Terry, and Esther Samuels at Golden Days c.1974



Sol on Sheldon Chandler's boat c.1985

Missionary, Robert Rundle (for whom Mt. Rundle in Banff is named), established the first mission in 1847 to aid and teach (in Cree) the Indigenous peoples of the area. The effort did not last long but was eventually helped in the 20th century by Reverend Henry Steinhauer (an ancestor of one of Alberta's Lieutenant governors). The explorer Anthony Henday with the Hudson Bay Company in 1754 travelled near Fisher Home on his route to reach present day Red Deer. Sol regularly enjoys boating, fishing and other lake activities to this day.

Sol's first experience with Pigeon Lake was in 1959 when he, **Sol Landa and Sam Weinstein** travelled in Sam's first car to attend the popular log cabin dance hall near the main pier at Ma-Me-O beach. The car's brakes failed as they travelled down the beach road and almost ran over the local constable who was patrolling the dance hall. The car was seized and finally repaired but they missed the dance!

Dr. Harold and Ruth Samuels and Kenny and Esther Samuels purchased

a cottage on the relatively new beach, Golden Days, west of Mulhurst in the 1960s and spent summers there with their families for over 15 years. The children, **Ron, Arleen, Terry, Karen and Richard** have fond memories of their beach time and lake activities. The boys particularly enjoyed water-skiing and boating and Harold and Kenny often participated.

Another property on Golden Days was bought by **Henry and Lili Cynamon** in 1980, the same time as **Abe and Toby Silverman** opened theirs across the lake on Grandview Beach. Abe would often fly his float plane to the lake and drop off Henry at Golden Days before crossing the lake. Henry and Lili's daughter, **Evelyn**, and family from Calgary, utilized the cottage most often after Henry's enthusiasm and interest waned, but the property is still in their possession.

The Silvermans regularly spent summers at Grandview with their children and ultimately grandchildren. Abe would periodically take off in his plane for fishing expeditions around Alberta



Silverman cabin after reno c.1983

and northern Saskatchewan. His cottage is now for sale in case anyone is interested.

Dr. Murray and Susan Lieberman and their three daughters enjoyed a beautiful cottage at Grandview Beach from 1990 until they sold it in 2008. They had initially purchased a property at Moose Lake near Bonnyville in 1977 and used it in the summers for 13 years but eventually decided it was too far away and they needed to be closer to Edmonton to frequently host their Jewish friends and relatives. Their cottage was named (appropriately for an obstetrician) "The Storks Nest".

Others at Grandview in more recent years have included **Dr. Jerrold Diamond** and family, **Tanya and David Kaplan**, **Dimitri and Irena Kaplan** and children, and **Michael Oshry's** family. **Clive Oshry** and family have a cottage closer to the adjacent Poplar Bay beach.

Dr. Elliot and Dena Gelfand, with their children, initially shared a cottage on the north side of Sylvan lake

Continued on next page



Eric building chair for the lake



Eric Schloss at cabin c.1996



Murray 'Max', Jill, Brenda, Karen, Susan at the cabin c.1997



The Stork's Nest (Lieberman) Grandview Beach c.2003

but eventually purchased a property at Keir Cape, east of Golden Days, which had belonged to Professor Ray Salt who was our histology instructor in first year medicine at the U of A. He was better known as a well-known ornithologist who was the senior author of the popular book, "Birds of Alberta". The Gelfand Keir Cape property was still filled with numerous bird houses constructed by Professor Salt. Eliot and Dena were at Keir Cape from 1990 to 2000.

My wife **Elexis** and I purchased a cottage near the far end of Argentic Beach in 1993. Our close neighbours at Argentic were the **Harcourt family**. Judy Harcourt is the daughter of Morris and June Simons and niece of Norman and Hal Simons. Morris was an accomplished pianist and was often playing or fixing the piano in the Harcourt cottage.

We used the cottage frequently in both summer and winter for fourteen years, enjoying the relaxation, stillness and nature of the lake and its surroundings including the adjacent bird sanctuary. We hosted many parties there and even one formal wedding. **Cynthia and Joe Doz** were married under a chupa (constructed with numerous tallasim) in a black tie ceremony at our cottage in 1994 with a large number of invited guests in attendance. Rabbi Roy Tannenbaum performed the ceremony. As he was standing near our front lake-view windows he raised his arm to begin the ceremony and at that instant a giant blue Heron rose out of the water as if on cue!! The wedding guests all gasped but it was a good omen. We had never seen a blue heron before and he (or she) never appeared to us again!

We also benefitted from finding an important and close addition to our family in 2005. After a storm, we were travelling along an older road near the lake (with muddy traction), when Elexis suddenly asked if I would turn around



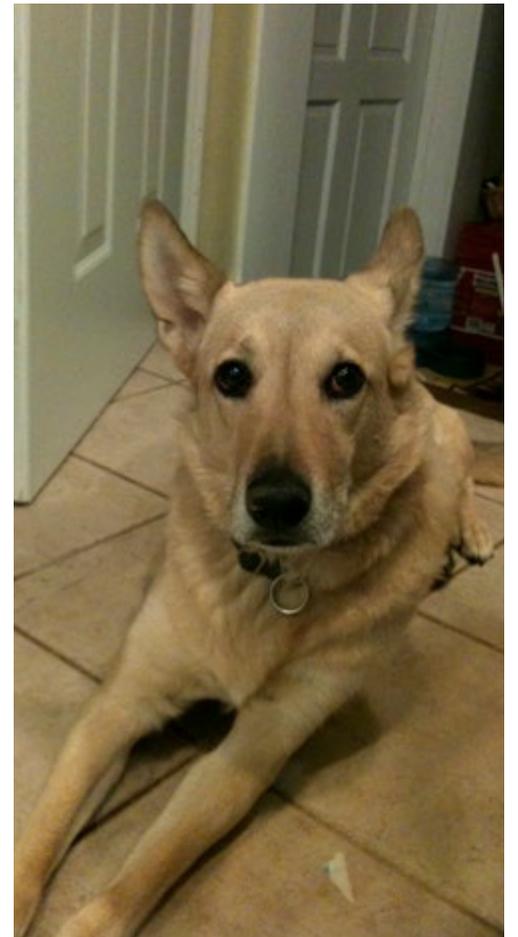
Margolus Family: Aunt Gertie, Ida, Charles, Eva, Dorothy (Kort), Sol, Leya, Gertrude and Sam Kort, Bobby Kort July 5, 1944

and go back a mile or two. She told me where to stop and we got out of the car and, near the ditch, behind a clump of dirt, entangled in bulrushes, was a little “furball”. Initially I wasn’t sure whether it was a baby wolf or coyote, but it turned out to be a dog who was obviously dehydrated and in distress with a very matted and crusted neck. As it was a Sunday, we rushed the pup to the emergency vet facility in Edmonton, north of the General Hospital. When I called back in an hour for an update on his condition, they informed me he was on intravenous and would see how he responded. I asked about the condition of his neck and they told me they had cleaned out two bullet holes!! He did recover nicely, and we ended up adopting him and he grew (rapidly) into a beautiful white German shepherd. Obviously, as we found him in the bulrushes, we named him Moses! Moses was a faithful companion for 13 years until he sadly passed away in June 2018, (just before his “Bark Mitzvah”).

Alberta Lakes Part II will appear in the next issue of *Heritage*.



Abe Silverman and pride and joy c.1985



Moses Schloss

RECOLLECTIONS of MA-ME-O BEACH

Beth Price & Ross Rudolph

Prior to 1946, the Lyons and Rudolph families shared a cottage. Soon the two families outgrew this cottage so the Rudolphs bought the cottage next door. The families ate together, shared precious times together but slept in their own separate cottages.

On April 28, 1946, Louis & Tryna Rudolph then purchased the cottage and property immediately next door to the one they currently owned. They bought the property which also included a storage garage and a small guest house from the Klapstein family. In the early days, Muriel and Jake Wener and their daughter Shirley occupied the guest house every summer for several years until it was too difficult for them to manage. At that point, the guest house became the summer home for Dr. Barney & Florence Mass and their two children, Philip and Sherry.

The middle cottage vacated by the Rudolphs was bought and occupied by Leo and Evelyn Nozick and their family, Mandle, Norma and their two daughters Merrilee and Hanita.

Shortly after Lottie Lyons death, the Lyons' cottage was sold. Merrilee Newstone and Hanita and Aaron Dagan still own the Nozick property. Beth and Lorne Price own the Rudolph property and both couples with their children have spent summers at the lake for the last 35 to 40 years.

The Lyons, Nozick & Rudolph cottages became a strong, vibrant family compound. There was a wonderful camaraderie among the Jewish summer dwellers at Ma-Me-O -Wolfe and Seda Margolis and family, the Slutsker family, Anne Perler and her daughter

Molly were all residents. After Molly's marriage to Morris Shugarman, they and their children spent all summer at the lake. The Charles Margolis', Wolfe's parents, owned a cottage on Crystal Springs.

Virtually all of these families moved to the lake for the entire summer. We remember that our back-to-school shopping took place at Brody's Department Store in Wetaskiwin just before the Labour Day weekend and our return home to Edmonton. The wives and children never left the lake while all the husbands/fathers commuted to Edmonton daily and returned on weekends. In those days, commuting was no easy task because the only highway to the lake was through Wetaskiwin and the road between Wetaskiwin and Pigeon Lake was not paved. In heavy rainfall, cars could get mired in the mud and local farmers had to rescue our parents with their tractors.

“Being at the lake provided simple, rustic pleasures and family closeness.”

The whole lake experience was an opportunity for us city kids to participate in country life. In the early days, there was no electricity, no running water and no telephones. Light was provided at night by kerosene and Coleman lanterns. Water was hauled by the pail from the corner water pump. Long distance calls to Edmonton were placed “collect” from a public phone at Jackson's General Store. And we will not expand on the outhouse experience!

Being at the lake provided simple, rustic pleasures and family closeness. We amused ourselves swimming, horseback riding and singing songs around the lakefront bonfire roasting marshmallows on branches we had prepared our-

selves. There were constant card games and who can forget Norma Nozick's family theatrical productions complete with costumes and make-up. Rainy days did not prevent our enjoyment; we had roaring fires in our amazing stone fireplace, we did lots of arts and craft projects and we listened to the comfort of CBC radio on Dad's transistor radio.

People may be distinguished into those who eat to live and those who live to eat. We, as Jews, belong to the latter group. A vivid memory is the mornings on which members of the local First Nations would deliver freshly caught and fileted whitefish that had been swimming in the lake just hours earlier. Our Mother's preparation- lightly breaded with caramelized onions- is a never to be forgotten favorite. A summer was not complete without a visit to the Tuft's working dairy farm in which the fresh milk was cooled in an artesian well. Fresh honey from a small honey farm near Falun was particularly meaningful when it provided the traditional symbol of sweetness at our Rosh Hashana dinner. Picking saskatoon berries from the trees in our yard was an especially fun activity but even more fun was eating the delicious saskatoon pies our Mom baked from our bumper crop. It was special for city kids to experience fresh food at the source and to realize that food did not originate in stores and we could taste the very essence of these foods.

Most important were the extended family and the summer traditions which provided the foundation for strong, close family relationships, socialization and story-telling for generations that followed. These precious Ma-Me-O memories were formative experiences and moments for the rest of our lives!

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Membership donations are used for the operating costs of the Society, which is a self-sustaining organization. Membership fees include spouses except for individual membership. Members are eligible to vote at the annual general meetings of the society.

Membership includes a subscription to our publication, Heritage/Yerusha. Fees cover membership year from September 1st to August 31st. Donations are tax deductible. We thank the above listed people for their support in the past year.

In Memoriam 2018

The following individuals were lost to us this year. We offer our condolences to their families and friends, and hope that their memories will be blessings to us all.

Clive Allen, z'l
Anna Tubinshlak, z'l
Howard Anson, z'l
Harry Warhaft, z'l
Gibi Banin, z'l
Marlene Warhaft, z'l
Khaia Benenson, z'l
Gladys Weitz, z'l
Elaine Bookhalter, z'l
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Lillian Karrel, z'l
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Jack Laiwnwand, z'l
Earl Lipsett, z'l
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Norma Nozick, z'l
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Ilya Portnoy, z'l
Pavel Rodnyansky, z'l
Esther (Shappy) Rosenthal, z'l
Abner Rubin, z'l
Ruth Samuels, z'l
Ann Schwartz, z'l
Steven Schwartzberg, z'l
Sandra Segal, z'l
Pamela Shachter, z'l
Simon Shats, z'l
Maria Shayman, z'l
Lorraine Lori Sheckter, z'l
Dr. Sam Sheckter, z'l
Sonia Sheckter, z'l
Maria Sheyman, z'l
Anita Shwarzman, z'l
Clayton Stockford, z'l

Every effort has been made to identify all those who have passed away in the last year, but if we have omitted someone, please contact the JAHSENA office.

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.

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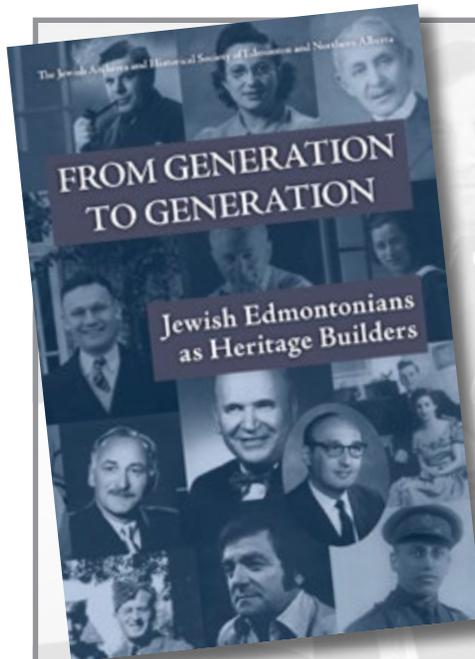
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