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HERITAGE

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

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2003 Maccabi Games, St. Louis



Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov to our two Board Members, Gillian Horwitz and Debby Shoctor, on being awarded The Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal. This is a commemorative medal in honour of the 70th anniversary of Her late Majesty's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The medal was awarded to 7,000 Albertans in recognition of significant contributions to the province.





From your President

MICHAEL PAULL

Winter 2023

Coming on the board of JAHSENA was actually an easy decision for me. I was watching from the sidelines while my wife Colleen worked so hard and passionately, convincing me how important the role of the Jewish Archives is in our community. There is so much history that needs collecting, and the Archives will continue to handle Edmonton's Jewish history which needs to be collected, catalogued, preserved, and shared with everyone.

I have heard from some that the Archives isn't important to them, as they just moved here 20 years ago from another city, country or continent so they have no history here. To which I always reply "you are here now, and you are making history today with the things that you do. JAHSENA's job is to help record the new history you have created and contributed to Jewish Edmonton, so we can pass it on for generations to come".

JAHSENA is an incredible organization, but the reality is this: JAHSENA relies on the monies from a bi-annual Casino and our membership to keep the doors open. This casino money comes every 2-2 1/2 years, but

unfortunately only lasts between 18 to 20 months before it runs out. JAHSENA is very frugal with the money it receives, and believe me, the organization is so grateful for what it gets, but we are unable to save for the future.

Instead of continuing to do it this way, the Board and I have decided we need to promote JAHSENA better. We need more volunteers, and we need more money from donors, so that we are not reliant on a casino every two years to keep the doors open.

There are many exciting items and plans that we are starting to implement, and I can share a few of these: we have applied for grants for systems that will bring our research, our catalogue, and our website into the 21st century. We understand the importance of staff and have increased the number of staff hours from 20 to 30 hours a week to get more archiving achieved. This is just the beginning and there are other goals I will continue to share as the year goes on.

Looking forward to the future so that we can keep the past alive.

Michael Paull, President

The JAHSENA Library would like to add the following books to its collection.

We will happily accept used copies or monetary donations for the purchase of these books.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hillberg, Raul - The destruction of the European Jews (3 volumes) 2. Trunk, Isaiah - Judenrat 3. Ringelblum, Emmanuel - Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto 4. Lipstadt, Deborah E. - Denial: Holocaust History on Trial 5. Teter, Magda - Blood libel: on the trail of an antisemitic myth | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Baddiel, David - Jews don't count 7. Horn, Dara - People love dead Jews: notes from a haunted present 8. Laqueur, Walter - The changing face of anti-semitism: from ancient times to the present day 9. Levine, Allan - Seeking the fabled city: the Canadian Jewish experience 10. Spiegelman, Art - Maus I and II |
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HERITAGE

The Journal of the Jewish
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Northern Alberta

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Archivist's Report

CARLEY HEFNER

My first two months have been quite busy! Getting comfortable with the tasks and routine of the position while familiarizing myself with Archival techniques and best practices. A big thank you to everyone who has given me direction and answered any questions. I have had the opportunity to speak with and get to know a number of members. It's nice to see JAHSENA having patrons all over North America.

Visits and Presentations

Debby and I had an MLIS student tour the library and archive for a class project. Debbie led an informative tour. We had the Canadian Multicultural Experience come Thursday, February 23rd. I presented documents, photos, books and artifacts and Debby did a presentation on the histo-

ry of the Edmonton Jewish Community.

Reference Services

I have received four reference questions from individuals; three research and one personal genealogical query. I have started to codify and document reference questions, so we have Statistics to track the archives usership. This will inform us how we can make changes to best practices and increase access to the collection.

Acquisitions

Jewish Family Services donated items from Harry Mann, including identification cards from Russia and Israel, provided by Michael Paull.

Ken Soroka donated documents, photos, and audiovisual materials, pertaining to Lillian, Jenna and Marlee Soroka.

Library News

Susan Binnington and Rowena Schwartzberg have joined Karen Hering at the Library as they continue to catalog the collection. We will be meeting in the near future to develop a circulation policy and plan some outreach programs for the community and researchers. I have applied for funding to update the collection and look forward to creating subject guides making our library more accessible and user-friendly for the members and researchers.

Upcoming Projects

The Canada Recovery Fund is a large grant I have applied for. The project in mind is to modernize our collection by creating an online catalog and digitizing a section of the collection, and to have a digital catalog of our own and on the Alberta on Record database. I believe this project has the ability to expand our membership base. I would like to see more young people interested in JAHSENA and eventually create programs and workshops teaching genealogy and share the treasures of this collection!

Donation Cards

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

MAZEL TOV

To Gillian Horwitz for receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal from the JAHSENA board and office; and Michael and Colleen Paull.

To Debby Shoctor for receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal from the JAHSENA board and office, and Michael and Colleen Paull.

To Stephanie Hendin for receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal from Michael and Colleen Paull

To Howie Sniderman for receiving the Distinguished Service Award from Michael and Colleen Paull, and Debby and Marshall Shoctor.

SYMPATHY

To Dr. Jerry and Miriam Katz on the passing of Bernie Frankel, z'l from Michael and Colleen Paull

To the Goldsand family on the passing of Dr. George Goldsand, z'l from the JAHSENA board and office; from Anita Sky and Howard Davidow; and from Elliot Phillipson.

To the Wasserman family on the passing of Kenneth Wasserman, z'l from the JAHSENA board and office; and from Anita Sky and Howard Davidow.

It all started with the Memphis Kid

Edmonton and the JCC Maccabi Games (the early years)

by **Howie Sniderman**



Howie Sniderman

The headline in the Jerusalem Post in July, 1985 reads: *“Canadian takes 100m. Americans the rest”*. The article itself, in breathless prose,

starts out as follows:

“Tel Aviv – Only a 14-year-old Canadian girl prevented a clean sweep of gold medals yesterday by U.S. swimmers on the first day of the 12th Maccabiah swim events. The girl from Edmonton, who brought off the shock result in the 100m freestyle sprint, was Janna Promislow, a tall ginger-haired beauty. She already ranks third in Canada and will next compete in the Canadian National Championships next month.”

Janna was nicknamed The Memphis Kid by the press and by her Team Canada fellow athletes, for it was 3 years earlier in Memphis, at the first North American Maccabi Youth Games held there in the sweltering summer of 1982, that Janna – and by extension the Jewish community of Edmonton – were both initiated into what has since morphed into the JCC Maccabi Games, an annual Olympic-style sporting competition for young Jewish athletes aged 12-16.

From that pilot project in Tennessee, which attracted 300 Jewish athletes

under 16 yrs. from around North America, the JCC Maccabi Games had become the largest organized sports program for Jewish teenagers in the world.

Next summer (2023), over 3,000 Jewish teens and nearly-teens will gather for the JCC Maccabi Games competitions in Israel in July, followed by a further competition in Ft. Lauderdale, FL a month later. The Florida games will also feature the JCC Maccabi Games – Access program. The Access program features competition for athletes with disabilities and is run in consultation and cooperation with the Special Olympics Association.

The JCC Maccabi Games celebrated its 40th anniversary this summer ... and Edmonton was there at the beginning, in Memphis, in the summer of 1982.

But let’s go back a year, to the summer of 1981, to tell this story. Barely a week into my articling year after graduation from law school, my mentor and supervisor, Barry Vogel z”l, asked if I’d be interested in helping out with the work of Maccabi Canada on the local Edmonton scene. As it turned out, his son Rick Vogel was headed to Israel just weeks later to take part in the high jump competition at the 11th Maccabiah Games as a member of Team Canada.

That fall, as Chair of our local Maccabi Canada-Edmonton Region chapter, Barry learned that Maccabi Canada would be putting together a national team of young Jewish athletes under 16 years from



Janna Promislow, Gold Medal, 12th Maccabi Games in Israel c.1985

across Canada to travel to Memphis the following summer. The search for local athletes began ... and, well, you know how things turned out with Janna. She was joined that summer by another young athlete from Edmonton, Alex Grobman, who played in the tennis tournament.

The fall of 1982, following the success of the pilot project in Memphis, a decision was made to expand the project and hold the North American Maccabi Youth Games every 2nd year. At the same time, the National Board of Maccabi Canada had a fundamental decision to make: was there enough bandwidth in the organization – and, more important, in the philanthropic community -- to raise funds to cover the costs of sending the elite Jew-

ish athletes from across Canada to compete as part of Team Canada at the Maccabiah Games in Israel every four years, and to send the young Jewish athletes aged 12-16 as part of a Team Canada to these new "junior" games every 2nd year.

By the fall of 1982, Alan Schapiro and I had succeeded Barry Vogel as the Co-Chairs of our Edmonton chapter of Maccabi Canada and we attended the National Board meetings in Montreal where that difficult threshold issue was discussed. The end result: as had been the case with communities across the United States, delegations would be organized and funded locally in Canada for all future Youth Games.

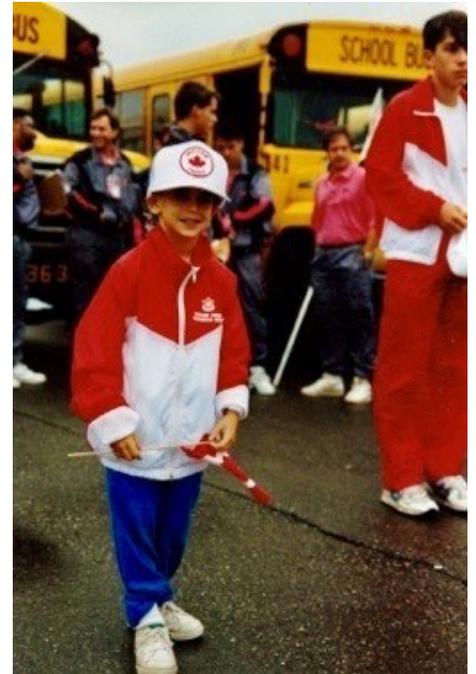
For the next 20+ years I had the opportunity to work with many wonderful volunteers as part of the local Chapter of Maccabi Canada and as a member of the Executive Committee and National Board of Maccabi Canada. And, more than that, the opportunity to meet and get to know the young Jewish athletes and their families from our city and to see the impact and outcomes resulting from their participation in the JCC Maccabi Games.

Danny Robson, a member of our

Edmonton delegation to the 1990 Games in Detroit, MI (at 14 yrs.) and then the 1992 Games in Baltimore, MD (at 16 yrs.) told me that his participation in the JCC Maccabi Games was perhaps the most Jewish experience he'd had since his Bar Mitzvah. David Ben-Gurion would have been smiling & proud.

The Maccabi movement symbolizes the commitment and the idea of a strong Jewish nation living in a Jewish state. It is linked to the ancient Maccabees and their courageous fight to establish the right to honour their God and to have freedom of conscience and sovereignty in their own land. The first Maccabiah was held in 1932, when 390 outstanding athletes from 17 countries gathered in what was then British Mandate Palestine. This past summer, the 21st Maccabiah Games were held in Israel. Over 10,000 Jewish athletes from 68 countries worldwide competed, making it the 3rd largest worldwide sporting event, surpassed only by the Summer Olympic Games and the World University Games.

But back to the local scene. Given the need to organize and fundraise for our Edmonton area athletes to attend the youth games, our local committee hosted



Ari Sniderman (age 5 years) Edmonton Mascot in Detroit c. 1990

its inaugural Maccabi Canada Golf Tournament in June, 1984 at the Glendale Golf & Country Club. Jack Schwartzberg chaired the inaugural tournament organizing committee. Over the next 20 years, the tournament was a fixture on the local Jewish community annual sports and social calendar.



Danny Robson, Gold Medal, Detroit, MI c. 1990



1990 Edmonton Delegation l-r Mark Russell, Dayna Kagan, David Kagan (holding sign) Rodney Handelsman, Jason Cairns, Jared Madsen c. 1990



Jay Cairns. Baltimore, MD c. 1992



Delegation L-R Michael Goldstein, Howie Sniderman, Kevin Sharfe, Rodney Handelsman, Jason Cairns, Jared Madsen Baltimore MD c. 1992

The Glendale was the natural choice as the venue for the tournament back in 1984, as it was then the home course for a number of members of Edmonton's Jewish community. In 1993, the tournament venue shifted to a brand-new course, the Coloniale Golf Club in Beaumont, developed by local Jewish businessman Sol Reichert and his mechuten and business partner in the venture, Mel Wolfond.

One of the tireless volunteers in our Maccabi Canada chapter was Morry Promislow z"l, Janna's father. To honour his commitment to the success of our chapter's fundraising efforts, the tournament was named in his memory after his passing in 2001.

The annual Maccabi Canada golf tournament attracted golfers (and wannabes) of all ages and abilities. And many memorable moments. None more so than the satisfied sigh from the lips of Issy Burstyn z"l, as he lovingly admired his drive off the tee one year at the long par 5-15th hole at the Coloniale: "Ahhh, dets de von!". In some circles, that simple statement still stands as the symbol of Jewish sporting excellence in Edmonton.

The tournament was the vehicle that raised both the profile of the efforts of Maccabi Canada and, equally as important, the vehicle that raised funds to subsidize the cost of the young Jewish athletes who participated at the JCC Maccabi Games

Aside from funds raised by the golf tournament, a sustaining fund was endowed by the sons and friends of Norm & Mona Witten with the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation in honour of their 50th Wedding Anniversary, for the express purpose of assisting with the cost of sending a delegation of local Jewish athletes to the annual JCC Maccabi Games. Norm Witten z"l, himself a Past-President of the Glendale Golf & Country Club, was an original and ongoing enthusiastic supporter of the work of our local Maccabi Canada chapter, and a fixture at the annual golf tournament.

One of the defining features of the early years of the JCC Maccabi Games was the exponential growth and popularity of the (initially) biennial games. Following the success of the pilot inaugural games in Memphis, successive biennial international youth games were held in Detroit in 1984,



Rodney Handelsman Baltimore, MD c. 1992



Michael Goldstein c. 1992



Avi Sherman & Leeor Handman Gold in Basketball Montreal c. 2002

Toronto in 1986, Chicago in 1988 and Detroit again in 1990.

By the time the Baltimore games of 1992 arrived, the city hosted more than 2,600 teenage athletes from around the world, including delegations from Israel, Australia, Great Britain, Mexico, Venezuela and from the CIS – the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The CIS was formed following the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, a year earlier. When the young athletes and their chaperones from the CIS delegation

marched into the Baltimore Civic Centre for the Opening Ceremonies of the Games, the sold-out arena crowd of more than 11,000 rose to their feet to welcome them. As they did for each of the other international delegations, including ours from Edmonton.

For many of the early years, our city was the only one from Canada other than Toronto to consistently send a delegation to the Youth games. In those years, we would reach out to the other Jewish communities in Alberta and Saskatchewan and include their young athletes as part of our delegation.

Doing so caused some consternation with the Games organizing committee at times, as they wanted to prevent 'poaching' – stacking the teams with talent from other delegations. When we made it clear that our competition was not with the JCC two miles away in a major metropolitan US city with a large Jewish population, but rather, an effort to be as inclusive as possible in a geographic area that covered about 12% of the landmass of the entire USA, the light of understanding

slowly blinked on.

Indeed, our plight here in Edmonton was of course mirrored by many other smaller Jewish centers in the USA and, soon enough, the idea of tagalong participants was the norm – particularly when it came to the team sports. Case in point: At the 2002 JCC Maccabi Games in Montreal, two young women from Edmonton (Avi Sherman and Leeor Handman) joined a basketball team from the delegation sponsored by the Sid Jacobson JCC in Greenvale, Long Island, NY. They defeated teams from Mexico and Australia, amongst others, en route to the Gold Medal. More important - and the whole point of the exercise, really, was the opportunity that Avi & Leeor had to meet and become friends with young Jewish counterparts from a very different part of our wonderfully small but equally wonderful global Jewish community. Also, they both came home with a bit of a Long Island accent.

And, even more poignant, were the moments that Leeor got to share with her parents Michael & Nili, who travelled to



Opening Ceremony l-r Peter Dushenski, Lawrence Dushenski, Leeor Handman, Avi Sherman in Montreal c. 2002



Peter Dushenski Montreal c. 2002



Lawrence Dushenski,, Montreal c. 2002

Montreal to watch her compete, and with her Bubby Sophie Handman z"l, who lived in Montreal and came to each game to cheer her on. Their experience was and continues to be shared by thousands of other Jewish families who accompany their young teenagers as team chaperones and cheerleaders. The opportunity to bring together Jews of all ages and stages through the competition and social opportunities enjoyed by their teenage children is not lost on the adult participants.

For my own family, the JCC Maccabi Games experience culminated with then seven-yr.-old Ari & five-yr. old Lizzy being outfitted and inducted as full members (and noisy cheerleaders) of the 1992 Edmonton delegation to the Baltimore games.

A defining feature of the JCC Maccabi Games is home hospitality. The local community hosting the games is asked to find volunteers willing to house the young athletes. In Baltimore, for example, with a Jewish population of nearly 100,000, this was do-able. But, even then, just do-able for 2,600 teenagers from around the world, not all of whom spoke English.

This led to situations where the volunteer host family experience for one athlete might be, for example, the one experienced by Jay Cairns, who played golf as a 16-yr. old in the 1992 Baltimore games as a member of our Edmonton delegation. The family he stayed with were members of the golf course where the games tournament was to be played. Baltimore's equivalent of our own Glendale at the time, in terms of being "the Jewish course", as it happened. The family housed both Jay and

another young man competing in the golf tournament at the Games. Not only was the host family match pretty much perfect for Jay all around, but it also gave Jay (and me, as it turned out) a chance to play a pre-tournament warm up round at the course as guests of the host family.

One of the other defining features of the JCC Maccabi Games has been the 'come all regardless of ability' notion. By that, I mean the chance to participate and compete regardless of ranking or prowess. The idea here is for Jewish teens from around the world to meet in a fun atmos-



phere of competition. And while for some, the competitive aspect is of prime importance, that's certainly not the case for all or, indeed, the vast majority. The social aspect trumps the competition every time.

My favourite case in point: Alex & Mark Russell. Their great-great grandfather was part of the First Yishuv and came to Jerusalem from Moldova in the late 1800s. Their father, Tony, was himself born in Jerusalem. And now, living here in Edmonton, Alex and Mark, the great-great

grandsons of that first Yishuv pioneer, were ready to make their own 'mark' on the greater Jewish world by attending the 1990 youth games in Detroit. But what sport to choose to compete in? The answer was a natural. They had a ping-pong table at home and liked to play. Which morphed into a dynamic duo in the Table Tennis competition at the games. Were they truly 'competitive' in the tournament? Who cares (but indeed they were). What I witnessed was the flock of young table tennis tournament competitors from around the world who were drawn to Alex and Mark like moths to a light. Their charisma won the day, if not a gold medal in their individual competitions. Their great, great grandfather would be rightly proud of them.

The reality of the difficulty of finding enough volunteer host families led to a few major changes to the youth games after the 1992 games in Baltimore. First, a decision to hold the games in multiple cities, in order to reduce the burden on the host city. Second, a decision to hold the international games every summer, instead of every second summer with smaller regional games in the USA on the 'off' year. And, perhaps the most important change, a decision to have the games organized by the JCC Association (JCCA).

While this led to some jurisdictional issues at the start, here in Edmonton we gradually and naturally melded the work of our existing Maccabi Canada chapter into the framework of our community umbrella organization, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton. The assistance, support and cooperation of JFED over the years in promoting and supporting the Jewish youth of

our city, to provide them with the chance to meet and greet their counterparts from around the greater Jewish world, cannot be overemphasized. And it continues to this day.

Working with Executive Directors of the JCC of Edmonton and of JFED, including Sid Indig, Lesley Jacobson, Gayle Tallman, Russ Joseph and Debby Shoctor was vital to the success of our local efforts during the first 20 years of Edmonton's participation in the JCC Maccabi Games.

Similarly, the cadre of volunteers on the local committee simply can't be overstated. The young athletes and their

families all owe a great debt to the time and effort they expended to bring what amounted to a start-up venture in 1982 to the shining success story that it is today. In particular, the work of Jim Kagan, Morry Promislow, Jack Schwartzberg, and Shelby Karpman (who succeeded me and took on the role as Chair of Maccabi Canada – Edmonton Region in 1996).

The JCC Maccabi Games leadership baton on the local scene was ably taken up by Mike Paull in 2003 and thereafter by Lisa Miller and, more recently by Alexa Steiner and Marit Abrams, each of whom have taken on the logistics role of organizing and onsite chaperone duties for

our delegation of local young Jewish athletes to the JCC Maccabi Games every summer. I have no doubt that the athletes who participated this past summer at the JCC Maccabi Games held in San Diego came home echoing the thinking of The Memphis Kid, Jana Promislow, and all of the tens of thousands of other young Jewish athletes from around the world who have had their own incredible Jewish journey at the JCC Maccabi Games over the past 40 years. Namely, well, that was fun. And, more to the point, "Ahhh, det's de von!"

List of Edmonton & Area Maccabi Alumni Athletes & Officials (1969-2002)

Year	Games	Athlete/Official Name	Sport
1969	Israel - 8 th Maccabiah	Deborah Shatz	Swimming
1981	Israel - 11 th Maccabiah	Rick Vogel	High Jump
1981	Israel - 11 th Maccabiah	Jim Kagan	Skeet Shooting
1981	Israel - 11 th Maccabiah	Alex Vitali	Karate
1981	Israel - 11 th Maccabiah	Alex Broyde	Table Tennis
1982	Memphis - JCC Maccabi Games	Jana Promislow	Swimming (Bronze - 400 IM)
1982	Memphis - JCC Maccabi Games	Alex Grobman	Tennis (Bronze Medal)
1983	Sao Paulo, Brazil 5 th Pan Am Maccabi Games	Jana Promislow	Swimming (2 Silver - 100 M Back and 200 M Back)
1985	Israel - 12 th Maccabiah	Jana Promislow	Swimming (Gold - 100 M Freestyle & 3 Relay Bronze)
1985	Israel - 12 th Maccabiah	Jim Kagan	Skeet Shooting
1985	Israel - 12 th Maccabiah	Boris Grayfer	Weightlifting (Bronze)
1985	Israel - 12 th Maccabiah	Corey Bernard	Swimming (2 Relay Bronze)
1985	Israel - 12 th Maccabiah	Shirley Kushner	Team Physiotherapist
1985	Israel - 12 th Maccabiah	Zakhar Ioffe	Fencing Team Coach
1986	Toronto - JCC Maccabi Games	Terry Shekter	Track & Field
1986	Toronto - JCC Maccabi Games	Howie Sniderman	Head of Delegation
1987	Caracas, Venezuela 5 th Pan Am Maccabi Games	Joe Freedman	Gymnastics (3 Gold & 1 Silver)

Continued on Page 10



Year	Games	Athlete/Official Name	Sport
1989	Israel - 13 th Maccabiah	Shirley Kushner	Team Physiotherapist
1989	Israel - 13 th Maccabiah	Stuart Tate	Wrestling
1989	Israel - 13 th Maccabiah	Steve Silver	Team Physiotherapist
1990	Detroit - JCC Maccabi Games	Danny Robson	Track & Field (Gold - 1600 M) (Gold - 800 M) (Gold - 3200 M) (Gold - 5K X-Country)
1990	Detroit - JCC Maccabi Games	Michael Goldstein	Tennis
1990	Detroit - JCC Maccabi Games	Mark Russell	Table Tennis (Bronze - Mixed Doubles)
1990	Detroit - JCC Maccabi Games	Alex Russell	Table Tennis
1990	Detroit - JCC Maccabi Games	Rod Handelsman	Swimming
1990	Detroit - JCC Maccabi Games	Dayna Kagan	Gymnastics
1990	Detroit - JCC Maccabi Games	Howie Sniderman	Head of Delegation
1992	Baltimore - JCC Maccabi Games	Rodney Handelsman	Track & Field
1992	Baltimore - JCC Maccabi Games	Michael Goldstein	Tennis (Silver - Doubles)
1992	Baltimore - JCC Maccabi Games	Alex Russell	Table Tennis
1992	Baltimore - JCC Maccabi Games	Mark Russell	Table Tennis
1992	Baltimore - JCC Maccabi Games	Rachel Mintz	Gymnastics & Cross Country (Bronze - Cross Country)
1992	Baltimore - JCC Maccabi Games	Jason Cairns	Golf
1992	Baltimore - JCC Maccabi Games	Kevin Sharfe	Gymnastics (5 Gold; 3 Silver)
1992	Baltimore - JCC Maccabi Games	Jared Madsen	Gymnastics (6 Gold; 2 Silver)
1992	Baltimore - JCC Maccabi Games	Jay Kesten	Tennis
1992	Baltimore - JCC Maccabi Games	Howie Sniderman	Head of Delegation
1992	Baltimore - JCC Maccabi Games	Helene Kesten	Assistant Head of Delegation
1993	Israel - 14 th Maccabiah	Michael Oshry	Fencing (Bronze - Men's Foil)
1993	Israel - 14 th Maccabiah	Dr. Shelby Karpman	Team Physician
1993	Israel - 14 th Maccabiah	Stuart Tate	Wrestling (Gold - Freestyle & Gold - Team Overall)
1994	Cleveland - JCC Maccabi Games	Barbara Moss	Gymnastics
1994	Cleveland - JCC Maccabi Games	Rachel Mintz	Gymnastics
1997	Israel - 15 th Maccabiah	Marin McGinnis	Swimming (Silver - 100 M Fly & Silver- 4 X 100M Relay)
1997	Israel - 15 th Maccabiah	Marat Schupak	Swimming Coach
1997	Seattle - JCC Maccabi Games	Rob Lerner	Tennis
1997	Seattle - JCC Maccabi Games	Percy Lerner	Head of Delegation
1999	Rochester - JCC Maccabi Games	Hart Levine	Basketball
1999	Rochester - JCC Maccabi Games	Greg Broyde	Basketball
2001	Israel - 16 th Maccabiah	Diana Mannerow	Track & Field (Bronze)
2002	Montreal - JCC Maccabi Games	Leeor Handman	Basketball (Gold)
2002	Montreal - JCC Maccabi Games	Avi Sherman	Basketball (Gold)
2002	Montreal - JCC Maccabi Games	Lawrence Dushenski	Golf
2002	Montreal - JCC Maccabi Games	Peter Dushenski	Golf (Silver)
2002	Montreal - JCC Maccabi Games	Howie Sniderman	Head of Delegation

Leading the Delegation

by Michael Paull



Michael Paull

In the winter of 2002 Howie Sniderman casually asked me if I had any teenagers into sports and when I said “yes”, he suggested that I should be the Maccabi Games Delegation Head to take some kids in 2003. That began my five-year stint as Edmonton Delegation Head.

The first year I lead the delegation was 2003, and with encouragement from Gaby Sonogo, we decided to revive participation from Edmonton by not only gathering a group of athletes, but by forming our own girls’ soccer team. With Gaby and Natalie Wolch as coaches, and me as delegation head, we took nine girls – Amanda Karasick, Jen Kovacs, Leanne Kovacs, Jackie Muscat, Samara Paull, Ariana Shadlyn, Jamie Sonogo, Alexa Steiner and Kylie Stephen - as the first (and only) all-Edmonton soccer team! Debbie Sonogo came as our chaperone and cheerleader.

That first year-- 2003-- in St. Louis, is memorable for several reasons: it was the first time Edmonton had ever brought a team to compete, and it was one of the largest delegations we ever sent. It was an exhilarating first year.

Over the next four years as Delegation Head, I brought athletes to compete in volleyball, basketball, soccer, and swimming. With the help of female chaperones, Debbie Sonogo, Lisa Miller (2003,

2005), and Colleen Paull (2004, 2006-2007), I was able to bring male and female athletes to participate. After that first year, we didn’t have enough athletes to again form our own team, but they had the opportunity to play with other cities, meet more people and play at a competitive level. I was impressed by how quickly our kids were accepted by their teammates.

In 2004, six female athletes went to Washington, DC. One of the girls, a swimmer from Lethbridge (Aaron Shapiro), was my first athlete to receive a medal at the games which I attended. I was at the winning meet and was surprised that the three-minute race was followed by a 45-minute cool down swim. Samara Paull and Alexa Steiner played volleyball while Leanne Kovacs, Ariana Shadlyn and Jamie Sonogo played soccer on American teams.

We went to St. Paul in 2005, and it was the first time I brought both boys and girls to the games. Ben Nobleman and Dan Steiner played soccer, Jamie Sonogo and Alexa Steiner played soccer, and Samara Paull played volleyball.

In 2006 we were in Vancouver, the first games held in Canada since 1986. Ben Nobleman, Dan Steiner and Michael Werner played soccer and Loren Hendin and Dena Paull played basketball. This was a year when several of the parents attended the games, so it was more fun for the chaperone (Colleen) that year because

she had people she knew to cheer with.

My last year was 2007 in Orange County. It was the smallest group of athletes that I took: Ruth Bercovich, Anita Kalitsky and Dena Paull. They played basketball with the Orange County team and had a lot of fun with the players at the evening events.

From my perspective, one of the key highlights of the games is that all out-of-towners are billeted with volunteer families. Some have their own kids competing and others are just great volunteers willing to help. Our athletes had positive stays and have great memories of these families.

I honestly don’t remember how many medals were won at the games, but I do remember watching how close the athletes became – the times we all got together prior to leaving for the games, the bonding when meeting teammates, the fun playing around at the events in fantastic venues and the unbelievable hospitality that we received in every city.

Being a Delegation Head for five years was a real honor for me, as I enjoyed meeting the athletes and watching those kids compete, watching them mingle and getting the opportunity to mingle myself. Despite all the fundraising, all the planning



Check out the back cover for photos of the 2004 to 2007 Maccabi Games Delegations!



2004 Maccabi Games, Washington



2005 Maccabi Games, St. Paul



2006 Maccabi Games, Vancouver



2007 Maccabi Games, Orange County

Recognizing

In Memoriam of our Past Board Members

Dr. George Goldsand, z'l was a JAHSENA Board member between the fall of 2012 and 2020. As a child, George and his family moved from Vienna, Austria to Canada in 1939 as refugees from the Anschluss and then to Edmonton in 1941. He graduated from the University of Alberta with his medical degree in 1959. He was one of the first infectious disease doctors in Canada. He was married to Past President Judy Goldsand and was a great contributor to Board discussions.

Ken Wasserman, z'l, joined the Board in the Fall of 2013 and stayed until 2020, first as Secretary and then as Treasurer. Ken was instrumental in providing information, artifacts and fundraising for the H. B. Kline Store that was built at Fort Edmonton. H.B. Kline was his grandfather, and both his father Malcolm and mother Zelma ran the store. The store continues to draw visitors every year and is a source of pride for JAHSENA and to the whole Jewish community.

Izzy Gliener, z'l, was a Board Member from the Fall of 2016 thru the fall of 2021. Izzy brought a warmth and sense of humor to the Board as well as a great memory of Edmonton's past. He lead several photo ID afternoons with other members of the community, naming the unnamed in many of the historical photos contained in the Archives.

The Board and Office send our condolences to the families. May their memories be for a blessing.

