

Heritage

ירשה

Jewish Archives & Historical Society
Of Edmonton & Northern Alberta

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Shoctor Writes Introduction for JAHSENA History Book

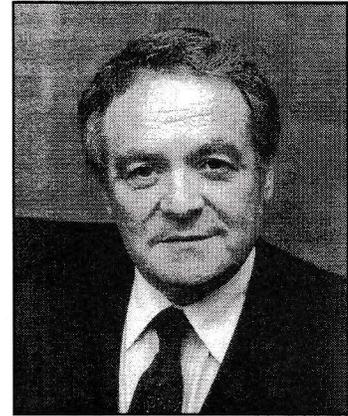
Joe Shoctor, whose accomplishments in the arts, business and community work, both within the Jewish and general communities, have made him a legend in his own time, has written the introduction for the JAHSENA pictorial history book.

The book, titled "The First Century of Jewish Life in Edmonton and Northern Alberta - 1893 - 1993 - The First and Second Generations," is scheduled to be launched in the fall of this year. It will be a limited, hard cover edition and published by JAHSENA as its major project for the new millennium. It's compiled and edited by Uri Rosenzweig, president of JAHSENA, assisted by members of the society's board, other volunteers and several hundred community members who have contributed historic material including photographs.

As in the case in most of his undertakings, Joe Shoctor's introduction reflects his passion, deep understanding, love of community and his own Jewish roots. The introduction reads in part as follows:

"We came to this land from the ghettos and shtettes of Eastern Europe," Shoctor writes, "as farmers, pedlers, merchants, labourers, junk dealers, fur buyers, chicken and eggmen and stall keepers in city markets. We became doctors, professors, lawyers, judges, dentists, scientists, developers, city councillors, mayors, members of legislature, industrialists, actors, directors and producers.

"For more than one hundred years," Shoctor writes, "and after serving our country in two World Wars, we have, as Jews and Canadians, helped to build, create



Joe Shoctor

and nourish our society, much of which will be illustrated in the pages of this pictorial history. Our story is part of the history of our city, province and country forever."

- continued on back page



Provincial Archives of Alberta, A-3352. Donated by the Pinsky Family

Rabbi A. Pinsky, spiritual leader of the Beth Israel from 1912 - 1933, founded and conducted a Jewish community orchestra. In the above photo, circa 1926, are: Top row, left to right, Frank Sklove, Morris Powell (Pinsky), Harold Lower, Charlie Nelson. Second row from top, Jack Pinsky, Ed Nurman, Harry Newhouse, Joe Garfin, Wolfe Margolus, ?? Third row, ??, Martha Fialkow (Hacker), Sam Binder, Rabbi Pinsky, Bill Goldberg, Lillian Turnow, Sam Goldsmith. Seated in front, Ben Shugarman, L. Nelson, Harry Morton, Sam Murman.

Journey Into Our Past

The histories of some 24 institutions, agencies and organizations will be published in the JAHSENA pictorial history book.

This issue is designed to give our readers a brief glimpse and idea about some of these groups that have enriched the life of our community for generations.

Readers are invited to write the Archives Office and inform us of any errors or omissions. □



NCJW Bowling Teams circa ?

JAHSENA Archives Donated by Sylvia Chetner

Front row, left to right, Clarissa Bercuson, Miriam Cotsman, Sadie Meloff, Sylvia Spaner, Beverly Brezer, Ruth Samuels, Sadie Samuels, Mona Galper, Tyrrel Liskear. Middle Row, ??, Rae Dolgoy, Esther Levine, Lil Podersky, Frieda Levine, Evelyn Kline, Esther Comisarow, Ruthe Kline, Rose Gofsky, Susie Polson, Eva Bell, Rose Podersky. Top Row, ??, Tillie Brown, Shirley Margolus, Teddy Riskin, Fanny Garfin, Addie Wyman, Toby Kagna, Mae Paternak, Mollie Margolis.

Edmonton Chapter of NCJW in Existence since 1920

In the early 1900s a group was created in Edmonton that became the nucleus of the local National Council of Jewish Women. It was called the Ladies Aid Society under the leadership of Mrs. H. A. Friedman and undertook such activities as settlement of new immigrants, volunteer work in hospitals during World War I and assisting during the 1918 flu epidemic.

In 1920 this group adopted the NCJW banner and continued its volunteer efforts. It helped to establish the Talmud Torah, raised funds for drought-stricken Saskatchewan farmers and assisted in the formation of the Jewish Welfare Society, forerunner of the Jewish Family Services.

In 1997 the national organization celebrated 100 years of service in Canada. □



"Let Our People Go!"

JAHSENA Archives

During the 1970s and 80s the Edmonton Jewish Community Council joined with Jewish communities in the free world demonstrating on behalf of Jews in the Soviet Union for permission to emigrate from behind the Iron Curtain. This particular photo was taken in 1970 on the occasion of Premier Kosygin's visit to Alberta. Subsequently, many Jews from the Soviet Union were allowed to emigrate to Israel and North America including a large community of Jews who made their homes in Edmonton. □

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1st Vice-President & Treasurer: Dan Kauffman
2nd Vice-President, Special Research: Theodor Shnitka, M.D.
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Mission

The Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta was founded in 1996 and a year later became a registered not-for-profit Society under the Societies Act of Alberta.

The aims and purposes of the Society are to gather, sort, catalogue, preserve and present the history and the religious and cultural heritage of the Jewish people of Edmonton and Northern Alberta. To this end we have embarked on an ongoing program of acquiring documents, photographs, memorabilia and artifacts as well as recording oral histories of elders of the community.

By special Permanent Loan arrangements with the Provincial Archives of Alberta, material deposited by the Society will be available for research, genealogical study, publications and periodic exhibits and serve as a central resource for students, teachers, authors, historians and others. □

After the Book is Over

The deadline for material for our pictorial history is past. Hundreds of documents and photos have been collected. The various chapters have been put in place and written, the graphic artist has started the layout and the funds needed to publish the book are in hand. Mel Hurtig, no slouch at writing and publishing books, who has graciously consented to serve as a consultant, has at a first glance predicted it will be "superb!"

The book, which will be the most complete record of Jewish life in Edmonton and Northern Alberta, will be a valuable resource to historians and families for years to come. We hope to place it in school, college and university libraries in Alberta and elsewhere to be used as a vehicle for informing the broader community who we are, where we came from and the great contributions our people made to the city, province and our country. It will be a limited edition and will sell quickly. Those who procrastinate in purchasing this book will miss the boat as many already have in missing the deadline for including material in it.

After the book is published this fall, the real work of the society will start. Hundreds of photographs and documents gathered by our society in the past two years will have to be catalogued and a data base developed. This material will then be deposited in the Provincial Archives of Alberta under our permanent loan agreement. The base will then have to be expanded to incorporate

the Provincial Archives own Judaica collection. The entire foregoing exercises will enable us to provide a comprehensive finders' guide so material can be located quickly as needed. It will not only be a long job, but hinge upon our ability to purchase a suitable computer and find or train qualified staff.

But that isn't all. Our society needs a visible presence in the community other than publications. We need an office, a place for photo exhibits and display areas for artifacts. We need to publish our historical journal, Heritage - Yerusha, more frequently; we need to expand our oral histories operations, (our taped interviews with elders of the community) and we need to develop an ongoing process of transcribing these interviews; we need to complete our cemetery project, which initially photographed all the headstones, but must move on to a new phase. And finally, we need to convince more people of the need to preserve our past.

All this work hinges upon the support of the community which the society serves. We are self-sufficient and use no UJA funds. The measure of support we seek is first, that members of the community continue to donate historical material to our collection; second, to help sustain our expanding efforts by becoming members of the society; and third, to help us as volunteers because we are the only vehicle that serves as the collective memory of our community. □

NOTICE: Anyone who believes that JAHSENA has a photo in which they appear, either as individuals or in a group and DOES NOT WANT SUCH A PHOTOGRAPH PUBLISHED, is requested to so advise the JAHSENA Society immediately in writing, describing the photograph and requesting that his photograph NOT be published in our book and/or in this historical Journal, Heritage - Yerusha.

United Jewish Appeal

In 1958, the United Jewish Appeal operated by the Edmonton Zionist Council and the Jewish Community Council campaign for local needs were merged into one campaign. Joe Shoctor and Samuel Belzberg were the first co-chairmen of this first combined campaign. Max E. Levy was the community executive director and he resigned the same year after three years of service. The campaign objective was \$125,000.

Morris Stein replaced Mr. Levy in 1960 and was the second longest serving director of the Jewish Community Council, United Jewish Appeal and Jewish Youth Centre when he left in 1967. □



JAHSENA Archives - Circa 1962. Photo by McDermid Studios

Above, the women's division leadership of the 1962 UJA campaign.

Front row, left to right, Frances Belzberg, Evelyn Kline, chair, Florence Mass (Morris), Ida Ostry. Back row, Miriam Lutsky, Seda Margolus, Morris Stein, UJA executive director, Esther Lieberman, Zelda Kalensky.

Edmonton's Yiddish School Fostered Cultural Heritage



JAHSENA Archives. Donated by Doreen Jampolsky

In the 1920s and 30s Edmonton had a Yiddish school in addition to the Talmud Torah. The Talmud Torah was established by the religiously orthodox/conservative Hebraist group. The Yiddish school was established by a smaller, left-wing group who wanted to foster the Yiddish language and culture. The school closed in 1939-40. Above is a group of Yiddish school students in the 1920s.

Front row, left to right, Henry Bernstein, Rose Margolus, Max Motkovitch, Zelda Davis, Susie Margolus, ??, ?? Centre row, Ida Bernstein, ??, Becky Hanson, teacher, Mr. Schney, Bessie Hacker, Pearl Podersky, Rose Zweig. Top row, Pearl Garfin, Sara Rudolph, Lena Davis, Goldie Hiller, Mary Hanson, Dory Satten, ??, Sadie Binder, Anne Bernstein.

*Become a member of the Society and help
Preserve the Past for the Future!*

THANK YOU

Membership donations are used for the operating costs of the Society which is a self-sustaining organization. Membership fees include spouses except for individual memberships. Members are eligible to vote at the annual and general meetings of the society. Fees cover uniform membership year from September 1st to August 31st. Donations are tax deductible.

We thank the following for their support received by the publication date.

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JAHSENA Archives. Donated by Becky Fayerman

Young Judaea Camp, Lake Chestermere, Alberta - Circa 1949-50.

First row, left to right, ??, ??, ??, Esther Estrin, ??, Mrs. Safron and child, ??, ??, Eli Shtabsky, Elliot Phillipson, ??, ??, ?? **Second row**, Nancy Sidorksy, Becky Shtabsky, Noni Pearlman, Jack Chetner, Tevie Estrin, Nate Safron, cook, Sol Estrin, ??, ??, Morris Friedman, Izzy Gliener, ??, Dan Pekarsky. **Third row**, Aaron Shtabsky, Dave Grossman, ??, Phil Mickelson, Eddie Pakes, Yochi Goelman, ??, ??, Gurevitch, Jack Switzer, ??, Cora Sokolow, ??, Sheila Gordon, Sharon Vogel, Ralph Prepes, Molly Fishman. **Back rows**, Ed Stochinsky, Miriam ??, Mel Wyne, Annette Sheftel, Howie Starkman, Judy Phillipson, Norm Steinberg, Perry Herman, Heather Goldberg, Larry Witten, Maureen Klingher, Sam Gtsman, Ivor LeBane, Dave Pekarksy, Sheila Radis, Don Gaolman, Lynn Shapiro, Barry Vogel, Jerry Reuef.

NOTE: If you can identify missing names, spelling corrections, etc., please PRINT and mail them to the Archives office. NO phone calls please.

Young Judaea active since the early 1930s.

Young Judaea, the youth wing of General Zionists, was formed in Edmonton with the amalgamation of two groups called Hakoah (for boys) and Roses of Sharon (for girls). They were encouraged to do so by

Bernard Figler, national director of Young Judaea. Lottie Newhouse (Lyons) is credited with the amalgamation into one group of Senior Young Judaeans. Vegreville also had a Young Judaea group.

The group had several alternating camp sites in addition to the one at Lake Chestermere, including one in Sylvan Lake and one in Gull Lake. Young Judaea still is active in Edmonton and across Canada. □

Source: Dr. Eric Schloss

JAHSENA Receives Grant From Edmonton Community Foundation

JAHSENA has received a grant of \$5000 from the Edmonton Community Foundation. The funds, specified for research for the society's pictorial history book to be published this fall, were used in the last calendar year. The book will cover the first century of Jewish life in Edmonton and Northern Alberta.

It's believed that this grant is the first of its kind for a history book on the Jewish community.

In thanking Doug McNally, executive director of the ECF for the grant, Uri

Resenzweig, JAHSENA president, wrote in part, "On behalf of our board and membership, I extend to you and your colleagues best wishes for the new year and continued success on behalf of many outstanding projects that make Edmonton such a fine community to live in." Alluding to the involvement of the late Justice Tevie Miller in the fund since 1971, when he created the first Act under which the Foundation operates, Mr. Resenzweig added, "I know my late friend, Tevie Miller, would have been proud of your Foundation's support of our project."

Members of the Jewish community are encouraged to support the Edmonton Community Foundation. □



Edmonton
Community
Foundation

New JAHSENA Board Elected at Annual Meeting

The second annual meeting of the Jewish Archives and Historical Society took place on October 27, 1999 at the Jewish Community Centre.

Elected as directors for the 1999 - 2000 term were: Sharon Abbott, Phyllis Adler, Jack Chetner, Cory Felber, Cori Friedman, Dan Kauffman, Ed Mickelson, Ruth Mickelson, Beryl Nahornick, Peter Owen, Dr. Ted Shnitka and Anita Sky. Martha Kushner was co-opted to the board.

At the subsequent meeting of the board, Uri Rosenzweig, founding president of the society was re-elected and Dan Kauffman, 1st vice president and treasurer and Ted Shnitka, M.D. and 2nd vice president, were re-appointed as officers. At the time of the meeting the secretary was not appointed.

In his report at the annual meeting, Mr. Rosenzweig reported on

the progress of the society's pictorial history book and outlined the work and projects still ahead for the coming year. Mr. Rosenzweig commended, in particular, Dan Kauffman for his efforts as V.P., treasurer and as chair of the casino which was held in December 1999. He also commended Joy-Ruth and Ed Mickelson as chairs of the Oral Histories committee, Ted Shnitka for his research on Jewish Academia of the U of A, Cory Friedman as Acquisitions chair, Cori Felber and Sharon Abbott for the Cemetery project and Anita Sky as society researcher.

In his report on the oral histories project, Mr. Mickelson thanked the members of the committee.

The annual financial statement, audited by David Levine and presented by Dan Kauffman was approved. Alex Mair, well-known historian and



Uri Rosenzweig

broadcaster was guest speaker. JAHSENA is a registered society under the Society's Act of Alberta and a registered charitable organization. The society currently has over 200 members. □

Wanna Loan? Try Edmonton Hebrew Mutual

According to its prospectus this association was incorporated August 15, 1927. The signers of the Articles of Association of the company and its officers and directors are listed as follows:

Jacob Glassman, president, Charles Margolus, and H.B. Kline, vice presidents, Maurice Stochinsky, secretary and Jacob A. Baltzan as treasurer.

Its authorized capital was \$20,000 divided into 2000 shares costing \$10 each. The prospectus states as follows:

"One thousand shares are offered for public subscription at the price of \$11 per share. Two (\$2.00) dollars per share being payable on application, and the balance at the rate of fifty cents (.50) per shareholder each week thereafter.

"The company proposes to carry on a loaning business among the Jewish residents of Edmonton and the Edmonton district with the object of assisting such persons as are worthy and capable of securing a start in life or of bettering the condition in which they find themselves."

The document adds that while its prime object is charitable in nature, it intends to charge a reasonable rate of interest to cover expenses and to gradually

build up a surplus. A financial statement dated December 31, 1942 shows interest revenue on 91 loans for \$25,366.81 was \$541.05.

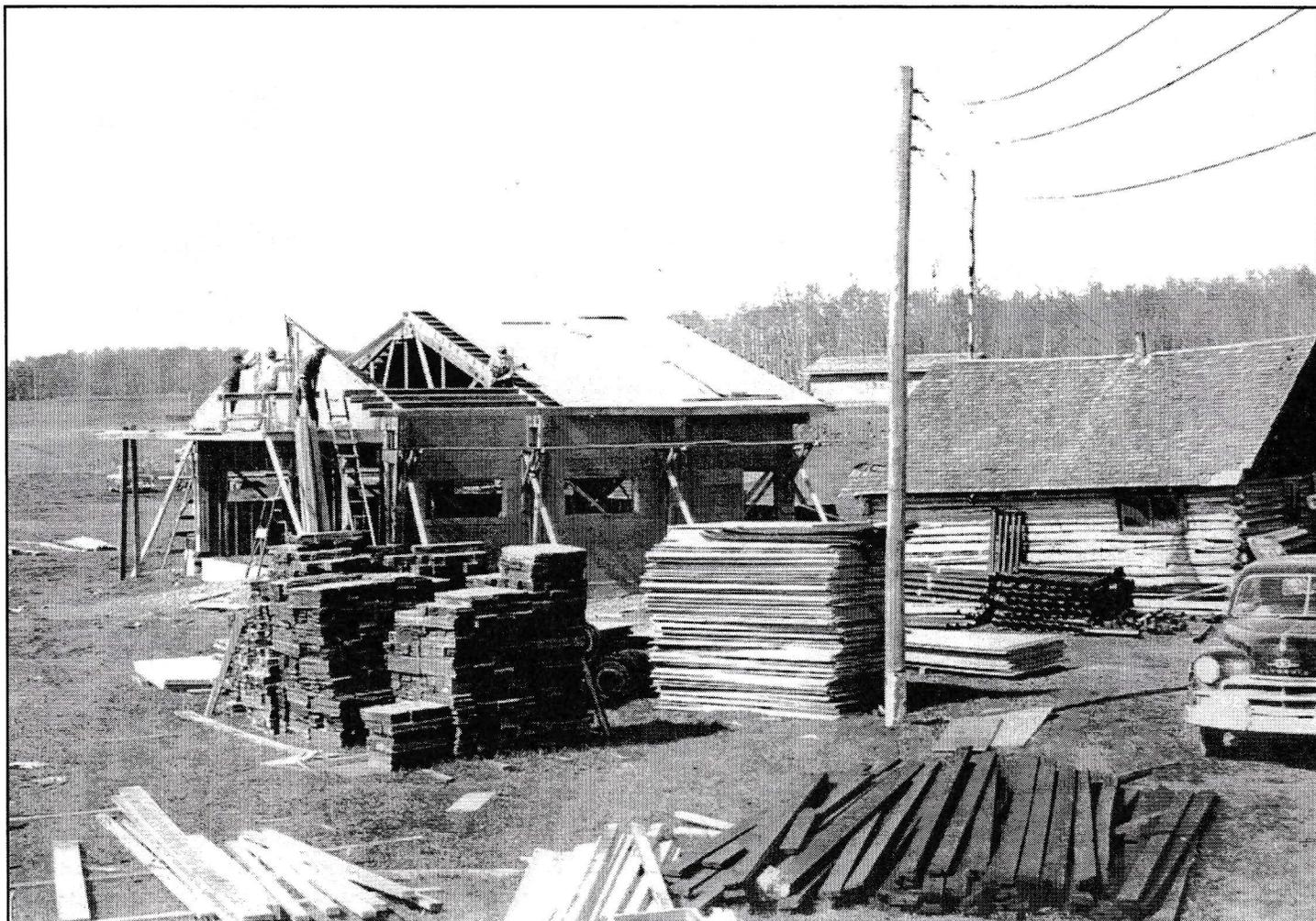
The archives society has no record of when the Loan Association was dissolved.

There was also the Sholom Aleichen Free Loan Association that existed in the 1930s but the archives society has little information about it other than a \$5 share in the name of M. Podolsky, dated December 1935. □



JAHSENA Archives. Donated by Hy Baltzan

Above is a share certificate of the Edmonton Hebrew Mutual Loan Association, dated August 19, 1929 issued to J. Saslow.



JAHSENA Archives. Donated by Abner Rubin

Construction of Camp B'nai Brith, subsequently renamed Camp B'nai Brith Riback, in tribute to Ted Riback of Calgary, who initiated the idea for the project, was started in 1955. One hundred and thirty-two acres of lake front property was found in the little known Ghost Pine Lake in central Alberta. Calgary architect, Jack Abugov provided the plans and supervised construction. Northwest Council of B'nai Brith assumed community obligation to raise \$45,000 and the capital funds committee was chaired by Mickey Dlin with Leo Mickelson as treasurer. The camp opened July 29, 1956 with Aron and Ida Eichler as first camp directors. □

Source: Dan Kauffman, Howie Sniderman

Shoctor continued from page 1

The book, which will have approximately 300 pages and hundreds of photographs will also include family, institutional and organizational histories. Funds for its research and publication were raised by the society through grants and chapter sponsorships. Funds from sales of the book, (expected to cost \$50 plus mailing costs) will be used to further and enhance the work of the society. The book will be sold for less than cost of production. Other than costs for researchers, a graphic artist and printing, all the work has been done by volunteers.

The project has been in the making for over two years and was given its first

major boost by a grant from the Dianne and Irving Kipnes Foundation. It's expected that parents will want to purchase several copies for their children and that many

former Jewish residents of Edmonton will also want copies. The book can serve as a magnificent gift for the first Chanukah in the year 2000. □

***Join Our Society
and help Our Efforts to
Preserve Our Past
for Future Generations!***

****Use the handy reply envelope
in this Issue!***