

Heritage ירשה

The Journal of The Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta

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Iyar 5761

Dan Kauffman, President of JASHENA Announces New Challenges for the Society.

Dan's column "...from the Pres" will be a regular feature.



"The book is out...Great job...what next?" is a question I have been asked quite often in the past few months. Let me share a few thoughts with you.

But first, a warm welcome to our new Archives Coordinator, Debby Shoctor, who joined us in March and is very busy organizing our files and getting them onto our archival data-base. We are delighted to have her with us and her expertise in library work, writing and public relations will be a great asset.

The acceptance of our limited edition book, *The First Century of Jewish Life in Edmonton and Northern Alberta*, has been outstanding! We have less than 200 books left and there is a steady demand. If you have not obtained a copy for your family or friends, please don't wait. "When they're gone...they're gone."

The challenges ahead? We must continue to collect material from families and organizations in our community. We want to be able to mount displays and visual presentations reflecting the fascinating history of our community. We are continuing our program of recording oral histories of seniors, and we want to publish stories and pictures we have collected but were not able to

"...Notes from the Pres" Continued on page 2

From the Archives: July 3, 1930, The Western Jewish News

What's Doing in Western Canada

Edmonton, Alberta

By Mrs. E. Bernstein

A tea in aid of the Baby Welfare Clinic Fund in Palestine, held at the Talmud Torah on Wednesday, June 8, with the president, Mrs. L. Podersky, presiding, marked the end of the most successful year in the history of Edmonton Hadassah. Opening with Hatikvah, the president proceeded with her report, showing that in her two years of office Hadassah has made great strides, having raised \$950.00 in the last year, leading all chapters west of Winnipeg. She thanked the executive body and members for their loyal support toward the noble work of Hadassah and closed by welcoming the incoming president, Mrs. H. Garfin.

There had been twelve executive and ten general meetings and a good general attendance. Mrs. Garfin, membership chairman, reported fourteen new members. Mrs. S. Rodnonsky reported on the banquet arranged for Maurice Samuel. The Balfour dance yielded net proceeds of \$119.00, the Home Cooking sale had netted \$107.00. Mrs. A. Goldman collected \$72.00 in dues arrears. Mrs. M. Shobin, Palestine Hospital Chairman, reported \$75.00 raised for Motza Convalescent Home and \$119.00 raised amongst members for Palestine relief during the August disturbances.

Mrs. E. Wershof, on behalf of the

executive, presented Mrs. L. Podersky, retiring president, with a certificate showing that two trees had been purchased in Palestine in her name, expressing the feeling of good fellowship and cooperation that existed throughout the organization. A special vote of thanks was moved to Mrs. H. Bloomfield, president of the Hebrew Musical and Dramatic Club, who kindly donated \$125.00 from the proceeds of their last concert.

Mr. H. Erlich, B.Sc. in Agriculture, leader and organizer of the Young Judean groups in Edmonton, gave a review of Judean activities, appealing for closer cooperation of parents and children. Musical selections and a vocal solo were rendered by Mrs. Mark Smith, piano solos by Miss Sadie Chmelnitsky.

Newly elected officers for the ensuing year are: Mrs. H. Garfin, president (by acclamation), Mrs. O. Ostry, 1st Vice President; Mrs. W. Wiseman, 2nd Vice President; Mrs. B. Lauer, treasurer; Mrs. E. Wershof, secy., Executive members: Mesdames R. Chmelnitsky, J. Hurtig, J. Starr, L. Podersky.



Mrs. E. Wershof Mrs. H. Garfin

If you have copies of old Jewish newspapers, the Jewish Archives at the Jewish Community Centre would like to preserve them for you.

"... Notes from the Pres"

put it in due to space limitations.

To do all this we need your help. If you are not already a member of our Society, please consider joining. If you can volunteer some time, please let us know. Membership is our lifeblood ...we need you to exist and to grow! But FIRST... get that "stuff" out of your basement.

Those boxes are not archives, they're FIRE HAZARDS! Be well.

**Don't Know
What to do With
Those Boxes
in the Basement?**

Bring them to us and we will make sure they are preserved for the benefit of future generations! We accept donations of archival and museum materials which will be preserved, protected and catalogued. They will be placed on permanent loan with the Provincial Archives, where you and your family will always be able to access them. Call, write or drop it off at the Jewish Archives Office. Debby Shoctor, the Archives Coordinator, looks forward to meeting all the members of the Jewish community and chatting about your valuable family and organization memories.

Phone: (780) 489 2809
Email: jahsena@telusplanet.net
Drop it off: 7200—156 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5R 1X3

**Preserve Your Family Photographs and
Memorabilia Correctly**

By Debby Shoctor, Archives Coordinator

It's been an exciting six weeks since I became your new Archives Coordinator. I attended my first Board Meeting on March 29 where I met the fabulous, dedicated and energetic volunteers who are the very heart of JAHSENA, and we discussed many interesting issues and upcoming projects. Book sales are steady, and the publicity about the book and the organization is just pouring in. There was a terrific article by Bruce Elman in the Canadian Jewish News which was also reprinted in Edmonton Jewish Life as well as the wonderful piece by Paula Simons, a member of the HRS (Hardin Rodnunsky Satinove) clan, which appeared in the Edmonton Journal just in time for Passover. We plan to continue with a series of articles in Edmonton Jewish Life to keep JAHSENA in the hearts and minds of Edmontonians.

Dan Kauffman and I met this month with Michael Gourlie of the Archive Society of Alberta and with Irene Jendjowsky of the Provincial Archives about beginning the new phase of our operations, archiving and cataloguing all of the materials we have so far collected for the book and the archives. Eventually, the material will be housed at the Provincial Archives' new home on the south side and our catalogue will be merged with theirs. I hope to spend the first week in May at the Archives, shadowing the senior archivists to learn their procedures for cataloguing, preservation and physical arrangement of materials so that our procedures completely match theirs, which will make the eventual transition of materials much easier.

I attended a one-day workshop at the University, hosted by the Museums and Collections Branch, on photographic storage and preservation, a program offered to the general public at a very reasonable fee. I would urge any of you who are interested to attend next year. Until then, I offer some tips for managing your own archives so that they may be enjoyed by generations to come:

1. Store your photos not in the basement or attic, where they may be subject to damp, floods, vermin and extremes of temperatures but on the main floor of your house.
2. Remove photos from rotting frames and backings of non-acid free-paper (except if they are glued on) and store in archival-safe sheet protectors or sleeves such as AVERY, and in acid and lignin-free boxes and folders.
3. Rubbermaid and other storage containers made up polyethelene or polypropelene, labeled either PP,PE,HDPP or HDPE are ideal for storing valuable archival materials, will protect from water damage, and are readily and reasonably available.
4. Photocopy yellowing newspaper clipping to extend their life, and get laser copies of old photographs done to use in scrap booking projects while storing the original photos in their archival-safe sleeves.
5. Buy acid and lignin-free stationery to print writings and genealogical charts which you create on your computer. This is most readily available from *Evergreen* stationery in Edmonton.
6. Donate materials you feel you do not want anymore or are not capable of storing and preserving properly to our archives—we will do it for you!

I invite everyone to come into the office and research your family history, help identify some old photos or volunteer to do oral histories, transcribe them, and collect materials from individuals and organizations. Make your community history your passion!

Heritage*

ירשה

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Uri Rosenzweig, Past President and Publishing Editor of JAHSENA, addressing the crowd at the book launch on September 27, 2000 at the Jewish Community Centre.

Champagne Reception Held to Launch JAHSENA Historical Volume

The Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta launched their much awaited book, *The First Century of Jewish Life in Edmonton and Northern Alberta* at a reception on September 27th, 2001 at the Jewish Community Centre.

Special guests brought greetings from the province, city and Provincial Archives of Alberta. The sponsors of the chapters were acknowledged and a book given to each. A special presentation of bookends with a picture of the front cover of the book inscribed on them was given to Uri Rosenzweig, Past President and Publications Editor, without whose hard work and dedication, the book would not have been completed.

Irving and Diane Kipnes were also acknowledged for their generous donation which was used to start the research, writing, compilation of photographs and typesetting of the text.

Our Mission

(draft)

Mission Statement

The Society exists to preserve and protect the Jewish heritage of Edmonton and Northern Alberta through the collection of archival documents and audiovisual materials for the use of present and future generations.

Goals

- To preserve the Jewish heritage of these communities through proper archival acquisition, housing, arrangement, cataloguing, preservation, restoration and access of collected materials;
- To promote interest in the history of these communities and their archives through educational and publication projects;
- To actively collect archival items from members and organizations of the community;
- To pursue funding to continue the programs of the society on a permanent basis; and
- To work closely with the provincial Archives of Alberta to support JAHSENA and its projects on an ongoing basis, and to permanently house the archives.

Objectives

- The collection of archival material pertaining to the Jewish families of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, and the Jewish organizations of Edmonton and Northern Alberta;
- The recording and transcribing of oral histories of members of the community;
- The photographing and description of the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery;

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Please note: Anyone who believes that JAHSENA has a photograph in which he/she appears, either as individuals or in a group and **does not want the photograph published**, is requested to advise the JAHSENA Society immediately in writing, describing the photograph and requesting that his/her photograph **not** be published in **Heritage—Yerusha**.



Can you identify this magazine and tobacco store and the people in the picture? Phone Debby Shoctor : 489-2809.

Mission Statement (draft)

- The recording and videotaping of the account of Holocaust survivors and second-generation members of the community.
- The collection of artifacts for periodic exhibition within the community and elsewhere;
- The undertaking of a lecture series on the history of the community;
- The making of a documentary film on the history of the community;
- The writing and publication of articles on the history of the community in its more widely distributed publications; and
- A genealogical survey of the Jewish families of Edmonton and Northern Alberta.

Collection Policy

- Archival material collected shall include photographs, negatives, textual records such as oral and written histories, documents, newspapers, newsletter, books, audiovisual materials, etc;
- The collection of miscellaneous, non-archival materials relating to the history of the Jewish communities of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, eg. plaques, memorabilia, awards, statues, perhaps for the creation of the museum branch of the Society.

Achievements

- Publication of a tri-annual newsletter, *Heritage (Yerusha)*;
- Publication of *The First Century of Jewish Life in Edmonton and Northern Alberta*;

- The establishment of a permanent office for the Society within the Edmonton Jewish Community Centre;
- The development of a permanent relationship with the Provincial Archives of Alberta for repository of materials;
- The procurement of long-term sources of funding for the organization;
- The creation of an active board and executive; and
- The employment of a professional director and archivist for the Society.

ROOTS

The ethnic
history
of Edmonton

Quiet halls, Star of David mark school

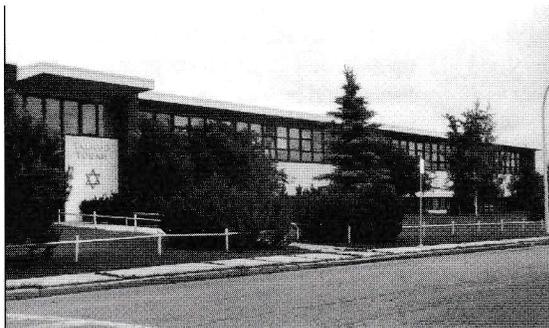
*From the Edmonton Journal, Thursday,
August 5, 1976, page 18*

It looks like any other school.

The windows have little cut-out figures on them. Most of the building is on one floor. No parking and school zone signs around the building.

Only the front of the edifice shows any difference—a three-foot Star of David with the words Talmud Torah.

This is Edmonton's only Jewish school. Inside it is quiet, as if classes are in session. Then a small line of five-year-



The second Talmud Torah school at 133 Street and 106 Avenue opened in 1953

olds comes quietly down the hall.

Quietly? Yes. So much so that one got the impression these children were there to learn and it was no nonsense.

They passed with a few curious stares and an impish grin or two.

"We have to cover much, much more territory in the same time as other schools in the city, said Rabbi Joshua Kronenberg, the school principal.

This workload and the purpose of the school make the Talmud Torah, founded in 1912, quite unique.

"We used to be a totally private school but last year we became an alter-

nate program to the city's public school system. This helps us financially and we now have access to a wealth of materials we didn't have before. Because we're part of this system we have to teach all the required courses, and in addition we teach a full complement of Hebraic and Judaic courses." The school runs a kindergarten class as well as grades 1 through 6. The school day runs from 9 in the morning until 3:45 in the afternoon.

Half of that school day is in Hebrew and many of the courses taught are about Judaism or Hebraic culture.

However, it's not all work and no play. A look into a class on any given day might find the children singing, dancing or preparing for one of the many Jewish festive holidays throughout the year.

Or you could find some of the children seriously pondering the Torah (first five books of the Old Testament) with the boys taking the part of a rabbi or cantor.

The purpose or objective of the school is to provide a school that teaches a maximum amount of Judaic and Hebraic courses, training in the Hebrew language and customs with a Jewish religious atmosphere and a sympathetic knowledge of and an attachment to Jewish religious traditions. "This is a Jewish school," said Herb Freedman of the school board of directors, "But we

are open to the public. It's just that few non-Jewish families would want to send their children here. We have had non-Jewish children in the past but they have been a rarity."

The Talmud Torah is partially subsidized by the public school system but much of its money comes from two sources—tuition and fundraising. Yearly tuition for each child can range up to nearly \$600 but "no child is refused



The first Talmud Torah school building, located on 103 St. south of Jasper Avenue circa 1943 was formally opened January 17, 1926. (Provincial Archives of Alberta 75.308/3 Photo courtesy Burton Margolus)

because of financial considerations," said Rabbi Kronenberg.

The school also provides extension courses for Grades 7 through 9. These are held at night and tuition is reduced. At present about 165 children attend the day school and 20 the night classes. "Further education for high school grades and university degrees are available but the students would have to leave the city and go back East or to the United States," said Mr. Freedman.

Asked if the school hits its objective, Rabbi Kronenberg said, "Yes, I think it does. The majority after they graduate, remember and think of themselves as Jews and have a desire to maintain Jewish customs.

"Even though many families have drifted away from keeping kosher homes or going to the synagogue, the young people still have this desire to see Jewish cultural values and traditions preserved."



The third Talmud Torah at 172 St. and 69 Ave. opened in April 1997 and was dedicated in March 1999 by Shimon Perez.



From the Edmonton Bulletin, Wednesday, February 2, 1938.

Dr. Abraham Leon Sachar, University of Illinois, Interprets Many Forces That Have Molded The Jewish Nation

For 150 people at the Macdonald Hotel, Tuesday night, the storied past of the Hebrew race grew rich in sudden inspiration and leaning as Dr. Abram Leon Sachar, University of Illinois professor, interpreted, in a speech aglow with eloquent imagery, the main forces that have molded the Jewish nation.

Dr. Sachar, who is National Director of the Hillel Foundation, was speaking at a banquet sponsored jointly by the Edmonton B'nai Brith Lodge No. 732, and the Edmonton Council of Jewish Women. The meeting commemorated the Silver Jubilee of the local B'nai Brith Lodge and the progress it has made in 25 years of eventful history.

Taking as his theme, "Israel weaves a tapestry," Dr. Sachar spoke with winged, dramatic eloquence.

FOUR PATTERNS

Four separate patterns can be discerned in Israel's tapestry, Dr. Sachar said. These are the recurrent need for "flight" by the Jews due to external pressure, "then the lurid patches of horror" the development of a distinctive Jewish sense of humor, and lastly, interspersed with this picture of tears and smiles born of sorrow, is the constant golden thread of Jewish achievement."

If Jews become saturated with the dynamic and ethic of their history and accept the legacy of achievement as a challenge to continued progress, all the oppression of the Jewish people today in Europe and elsewhere will be "memory of the moment against the people of eternity," Dr. Sachar said in a ringing peroration.

In a map depicting the wanderings of the Hebrew people the lines marking the forced migrations and disruptive uprootings of the race "cross and re-cross and continually intercross," he said.

HEARTACHE AND HEARTBREAK

"And each of these lines represents heartache and heartbreak to hundreds of thousands of our people," he said. (As a result of these national flights the "major motif" of Jewish life has been, Dr. Sachar submitted, the development of a unique power of resiliency, adaptation, and emancipation from narrow parochialism.

Scorning to excite sympathy in his description of the multiplied pain heaped upon the Jew in years of oppression, Dr. Sachar said he was merely going to describe the corrosive effects of mistreatment upon the race in these "centuries of horror."

Pent up in festering ghettos, forced to wear a special degrading costume, mocked and attacked at every turn, persecution of the Jews in the torturing years of the Middle Ages resulted in making of him "a deliberate caricature, a thing of aversion, until at last the Jew ceased to stand erect and look to following the byways rather than the highways. Tempering these panics of flight and slow years of continued discrimination was the growth of Jewish humor.

PAIN DIPPED IN HONEY

"Jewish humor is pain dipped in honey. It comes from the very sorrows of the Jewish group. It is the Jew smiling through his tears. The Jews have been the bridge over which civilization has walked and are the forces that have animated them to achievement. Lauding



Who are these lovely ladies? Where are they and what activity are they engaged in? Please phone Debby Shoctor at 489-2809

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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 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 above listed people for their support in the past year.