

ירשה

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HERITAGE

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



Abraham Shnitka:
King's Printer and
Yiddish Press
owner.

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**Women
Who Made a
Difference**

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Oral Histories:
Lillian and Dr.
Leslie Green.

page 10

JAHSENA AGM

**Thursday,
November 18,
7:30 pm
Coloniale Room, JCC**

**Repeat showing of:
"From Pedlars
to Patriarchs:
A Legacy
Remembered."**

Everyone invited!

MEN OF VISION

Former Edmontonian turned Hollywood Director Arthur Hiller congratulates Producer Dan Kauffman upon the completion and premiere of his documentary, "From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered," on August 29th at the Provincial Museum. Mr. Hiller and his family feature prominently in the film.

There were close to 100 Jewish businesses on or near 101st Street in the early part of the 1900s. Many of these businesses are captured in the documentary produced by JAHSENA reflecting the vision and the struggles of our early pioneers to make a home for their families.

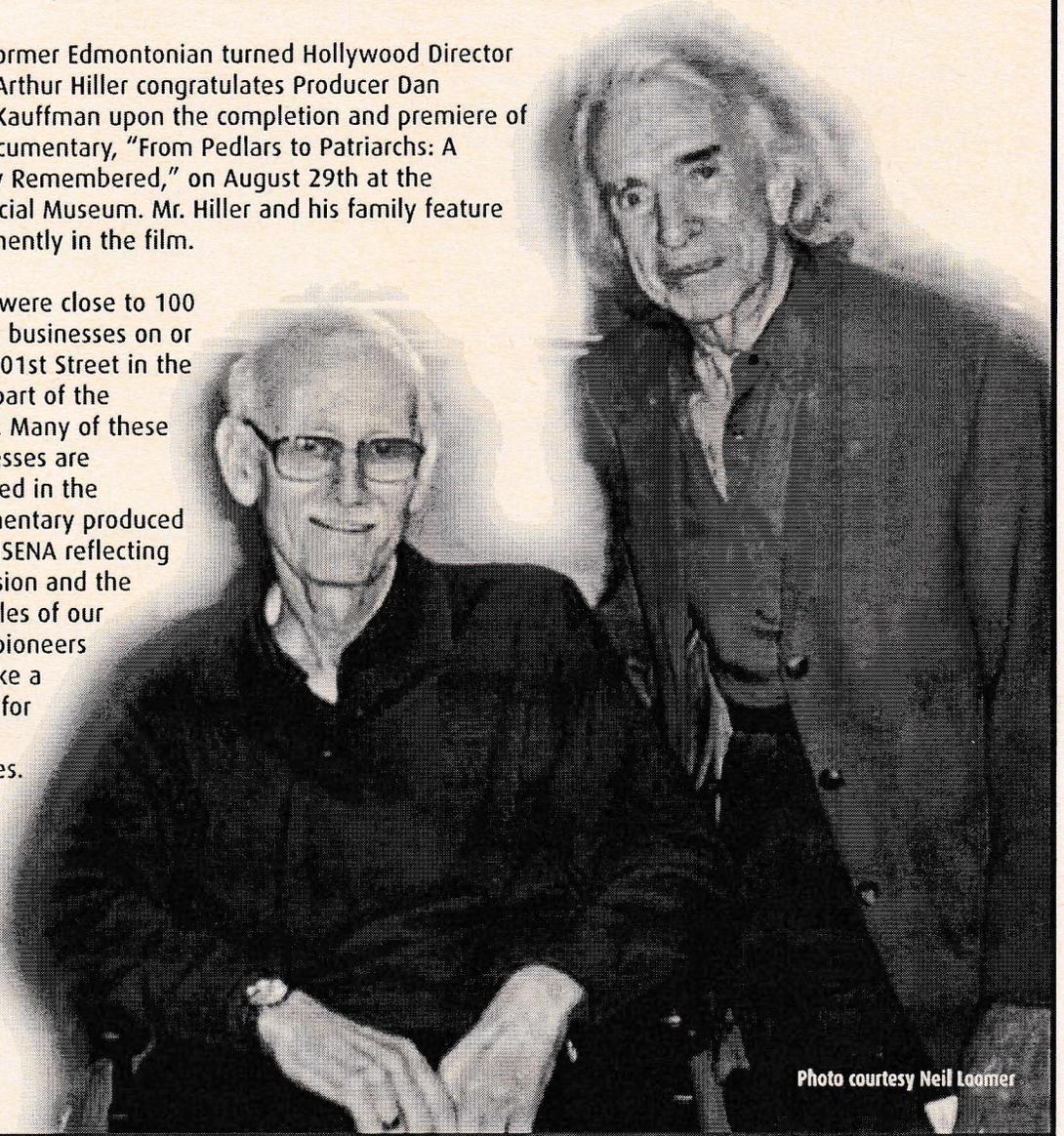


Photo courtesy Neil Loomer



From the Archivist's Desk...

by DEBBY SHOCTOR

Hailstorm Proves Folly of Keeping Archives in Basements

The July hailstorm, while tragic, proved a point which archivists have been trying to make for years: basements are not proper places to keep valuable archival materials. In fact, this point was especially emphasized for the Edmonton Jewish Community, as the epicentre of the storm was directly over the areas in which most Jewish Community members live – Rio Terrace, Quesnell, Westridge and Wolf Willow.

The Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta would like to send its condolences out to all members of the community whose basements were affected by the storm. We would also like to make you an offer: free storage for any family or community papers and photos which may have survived the storm! Yasher Koach to those community members who got these valuable pieces of Edmonton Jewish Community history out of their basements

before the storm hit, such as Quesnell residents Dianne and Noel Jampolsky, and Cory Felber; and to Dr. Manny and Rhoda Friedman, who brought what material survived into the office afterwards.

While the JCC was also affected by the storm, the Archives office is located in an area of the building free from roof leaks or basement flooding and is a very safe place for storage of these materials. In addition, we have taken precautions such as storing materials on shelves at least four inches off the floor, or in water-tight plastic containers, and having emergency tarpaulins on hand. Ultimately, our materials will be transferred to the Provincial Archives of Alberta's state-of-the-art facility in South Edmonton, where they will be stored in temperature and humidity controlled, water-tight vaults.

Please consider donating what materials you may have left to the archives. Even if you

just let us borrow your family photos for scanning onto CD-ROM, at least you will know that there is another copy in existence, should you ever lose yours. If you insist on still keeping these materials in your basement, be sure to put them in water-tight Rubbermaid or Sterlite containers, (which are also acid-free), and store them up off the floor. Another tip: if papers develop mould from being damp, thoroughly dry them out in the sun, and then spray them lightly with Lysol to kill spores and bacteria.

With the 100th anniversary of our city coming up this fall, please consider making a contribution to preserving the history of our community either by becoming a member of JAHSENA, or making a donation of materials. And don't forget to visit our booth depicting the history of our community at City Hall on October 8th during the week of Centennial celebrations.

–Debby Shoctor

ירשה

HERITAGE

PUBLISHED BY

The Jewish Archives & Historical Society
of Edmonton & Northern Alberta

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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers in our office to identify photos, photocopy newspapers and clippings, do oral history summaries and transcripts and many other interesting tasks. Your own desk and all the coffee you can drink awaits you! Call Debby Shoctor at 489-2809.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of Heritage/Yerusha, the family of Dr. Eric Schloss was incorrectly identified as coming from Vegreville, when in fact they came from Camrose. For this, we apologize.

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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. 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.

"FROM PEDLARS TO PATRIARCHS: A LEGACY REMEMBERED"

The Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta is taking orders for copies of *"From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered,"* its documentary film about the history of the Edmonton Jewish Community. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this film, on VHS or DVD, please contact the Archives office at 489-2809. At the present time, we do not know what the cost of the video will be, but will let you know shortly. We anticipate that the video will become available in about 6-8 weeks.

**ORDER
YOUR
COPY
TODAY!**

**TO ORDER CALL
489-2809**

W*OMEN

— WHO MADE A —

DIFFERENCE

The following pictures and bios appear in a virtual online exhibit on the Archives Society of Alberta Website for Archives Week, an annual event held the first week of October every year. They are reproduced here for those of you who do not have access to the internet, or who like to see things in physical form. If you would like to view the rest of the exhibit, which features submissions from many other small and large Archives in Alberta which are members of the ASA, go to: www.archivesalberta.org and click on the icon for the exhibit.

MINNIE WERSHOF PHILLIPSON, 1922

JAHSENA Archives
 Donated by Judith Phillipson
 JA-FCJ-99-03-007

Minnie Wershof Phillipson was the first Jewish woman to graduate from the University of Alberta. After she received her B.A. in 1922 above, this was followed by an M.A. in English.



DR. ETHEL SEGAL MARLISS, CIRCA 1990

JAHSENA Archives MRL.96.1

Ethel Segal Marliss was born July 2, 1912 in Calgary. She married Ben Marliss (d. July 19, 1972) in Edmonton, on January 9, 1938. Ben owned the Edmonton 7-up franchise with his three brothers. Her career as a respected consumer advocate, commentator and writer began in 1940, when she became a charter member of the Women's Regional Advisory Committee of the Wartime Prices Board. She began work for CBC Radio in 1948, retiring in 1991. She was a regular consumer columnist for the Edmonton Sun. Ethel never finished High School, but she received an Honourary Diploma for General Administration - Marketing from Grant MacEwan College in 1977. In 1986, she was admitted to the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame in for 40 years of continuous service in the Consumers' Association of Canada. She received an Honourary Doctorate of Letters from the University of Alberta in 1989. Ethel had three sons. She died on November 5, 1996 at the age of 84.



MRS. CHARLOTTE (LOTTIE) WERSHOF, CIRCA 1960

JAHSENA Archives

Photo Donated by Edmonton Hadassah-WIZO

WER.03.1

Mrs. Charlotte (Lottie) Wershof (1902-1998) was the founding President of the Jewish National Fund in Edmonton, a past President and life-member of Edmonton Hadassah-WIZO, and served as Vice-President of Emunah/Mizrachi Edmonton Chapter. A nurse by training, Mrs. Wershof was also the President of the Victorian Order of Nurses, Edmonton Chapter, ca. 1961. She worked tirelessly as a volunteer for many Jewish and general organizations in the City of Edmonton well into her 90s. Her husband, Dr. Eli Wershof (b. 1896) came to Canada from Lithuania in 1905, first residing in Ottawa, then Winnipeg, and finally settling in Edmonton where he was the first Jewish Doctor. He graduated in Medicine in 1917 from the University of Manitoba, and started his practice in Edmonton in 1922. Dr. Wershof served as an officer in the Canadian Medical Corps in World War I. He was one of the co-honourees of the first Negev Dinner held in Edmonton in 1954. Dr. Wershof died in July, 1973. His brother, Dr. Max Wershof, served as the Canadian Ambassador to Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Mrs. Wershof died ca. 1998. The Wershofs had three children: Queena, Naomi (Kassie), and Cecil Wershof. Queena Esther Wershof Klein became a Social Worker and served as Executive Director of Edmonton Jewish Family Services. Eli and Charlotte had ten grandchildren.



DR. DASHA GOODY, CIRCA 1995

JAHSENA Archives

*Photo donated
by Dasha Goody*
DGO.02.1



Born in Winnipeg about 1920, Dasha Shaw came to Edmonton after marrying Joe Goody. Mrs. Goody was a longtime member of the Edmonton Arts community, having founded Orion Musical Theatre in 1952, Second Generation in 1973, and Edmonton Musical Theatre in 1977. She also worked as a radio producer, taught audio-visual arts and directed a number of local musical theatre productions. She received a number of awards for her work, including an honorary doctorate from the University of Alberta in 1997, the Alberta Achievement Award of Excellence for Outstanding Contribution to Musical Theatre in Alberta in 1979, and was inducted into the Edmonton Cultural Hall of Fame in 1995. Dasha and Joe Goody had two children, Dan and Brandy (Gresser). Mrs. Goody passed away in 2001.

OLGA FREIFELD IN FRONT OF HER LOG CABIN IN PEERS, ALBERTA, WITH HER DOG, BUCK, CIRCA 1925.

JAHSENA Archives

Donated by Anna Freifeld Lemkow
OFR.98.1

In 1924, sponsored and financed by her brother-in-law Leon Freifeld, Olga Freifeld and her children Eric and Anna, along with their Russian nurse Nyania, immigrated to Canada. Mrs. Freifeld's husband had passed away in Russia of typhus. Olga Freifeld, already trained as a nurse before leaving Russia, received Canadian accreditation upon achieving an acceptable level of English fluency. Through an internship at the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton, Mrs. Freifeld was employed as a public health nurse in Peers, Alberta covering a large district to the east of Edson, for 13 years, during which time she delivered over 300 babies. Mrs. Freifeld retired in 1940 and passed away in 1972. Both of Mrs. Freifeld's children also achieved prominence in their chosen fields. Eric Freifeld became one of Canada's most prominent artists and the chairman of the Fine Arts department of the Ontario College of Art. Anna Lemkow (Freifeld) worked as an economist at the United Nations in New York.





Abraham Shnitka, King's Printer, in his Edmonton Office, December, 1947. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Dr. Theodor Shnitka.

ABRAHAM KING'S PRINTER

BY PAULA E. KIRMAN

It's hard to imagine the old-fashioned days of hand set printing presses in today's world of e-mail, word processing, and desktop publishing software. Yet that is how newspapers, flyers, brochures, and anything else that needed to be printed were done in the 1800s and early part of the 20th century. Those old printing presses were set backwards by hand, one letter at a time. Now, imagine setting a press to print in Yiddish or Hebrew, where everything is backwards in the first place! It sounds impossible, but it was done by printers like Abraham Shnitka.

Shnitka was the first printer of Yiddish materials west of Winnipeg. He was born in Libau, Courland-Latvia (Russia) on February 15, 1894. His printing career began as an apprentice in Libau, before he emigrated to Canada with his parents and four siblings in 1911. Parents Aaron and Sara Schnittke (the original spelling of the family name was changed upon arrival in Canada) decided to leave Libau to avoid three of their sons being conscripted into the Czar's imperial army. The Shnitkas settled in Calgary, where 19 year old Abraham started the Franklin Press in 1913.

The first Jewish job printing shop in the region, some of Shnitka's clients included a variety of Jewish organizations such as the Calgary Talmud-Torah, Calgary Jewish Literary Club, The Calgary Zionist Association, and the

Peretz Shul, amongst many others.

Abraham, his wife Pearl (nee Friefeld), and son Theodor moved to Edmonton in 1935. Abraham sold the Franklin Press, and became the King's and later Queen's Printer, responsible for producing government brochures, reports, and other documents. He held the position from 1935 until his retirement in 1958.

The Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta has an extensive file on Abraham Shnitka, including a written family history by his son, a scrapbook, and many examples of printed materials in Yiddish and English: handbills, brochures, booklets, cards, decals, and even a Shnitka ex-libris bookplate.

In addition to being known for his printing work, Abraham Shnitka was a lifelong supporter of Jewish and Zionist causes in Calgary and Edmonton. He was active with such organizations as Edmonton Histraduth, Talmud Torah, Beth Israel Synagogue, and The Calgary Zionist Organization, where he was Secretary-Treasurer when the group celebrated the Balfour Declaration in 1917.

After his retirement in 1958, Shnitka and his wife Pearl journeyed to Israel for the first time on the S.S. Theodor Herzl sailing from New York to Haifa. He remained active in Jewish causes, as well as his hobbies like collecting antiques, playing chess and gardening. Abraham Shnitka died on January

17, 1972, at the age of 77. His wife Pearl passed away three years later, on July 25, 1975 at 90 years of age.

Dr. Theodor K. Shnitka still resides in Edmonton, and has many fond memories of his father. "He was a good role model – very hard working, diligent, outspoken, innovative."

The story of how Abraham Shnitka became the province's Queen's printer began when Shnitka was still living in Calgary. "One of his clients in the print shop was William Aberhart, the Social Credit Premier back in the 30s. He used to be principal of the evangelical Bible College in Calgary called the "Prophetic Bible Institute". He used to bring printing to my dad, and they would have discussions about Bible stories and their interpretation. He established a friendship with my father and when he became Premier of the province, he asked him if he would be interested in becoming King's Printer," Dr. Shnitka explains.

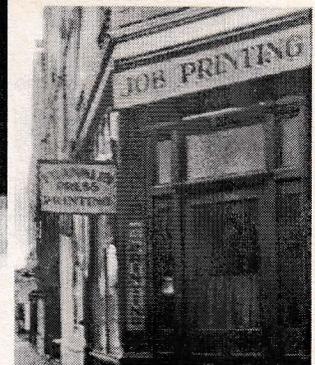
He also says that his father welcomed the opportunity, even though it meant selling the Franklin Press and moving to Edmonton. "The print business was quite difficult in those days," Dr. Shnitka, who attended medical school at the University of Alberta, explains. "My father used to work all night to produce the printed materials. The next day he would go around delivering them and trying to solicit more business. So he literally was working day and night through the Depression. I think the

ABRAHAM SHNITKA: PRINTING CENTER



Abraham Shnitka in his office at the Franklin Press in Calgary, circa 1920, donated by Dr. Theodor Shnitka.

The Franklin Press, 610 Centre St., Calgary, Alberta. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Dr. Theodor Shnitka.



possibility of a continuous salary was quite attractive to him."

The friendship between Abraham Shnitka and William Aberhart continued after Shnitka took the job. "For a while Aberhart lived in a suite at the top of the MacDonald Hotel. His wife wasn't fond of political life and she moved to Vancouver with her children. Aberhart was 'batching' alone in his suite. On Saturday evenings my father used to go and play chess with him. That was a fairly regular event, for them to play chess and kibbitz," Dr. Shnitka says with a laugh.

Abraham Shnitka was also involved with the

printing of Scrip, the failed currency system developed by the Social Credit Party consisting of stamp cards that could later be redeemed for cash. "My dad went to Calgary to supervise the printing there of the Scrip, because there were only a few printing businesses that were capable of handling that sort of work. There were Mounties guarding the operation, to make sure none of it disappeared while it was being printed."

Dr. Shnitka also recalls his father being enthusiastic to visit Israel on the nation's tenth anniversary – of course, he made a point of checking out the printing industry over there.

During his parents' trip, Dr. Shnitka was responsible for caring for a prized pet of the family: a green Amazon parrot named Polly. "It was my mother's pet; it hated the men in the family. It used to sit on my shoulder and bite my ear. She was certainly happy to see my mother when she came back!"

After Abraham and Pearl Shnitka respectively passed away, Dr. Shnitka made a long-term contribution to the Jewish National Fund's Galil Project. A plaque was erected in the Galilee, bearing the Shnitka's names. Dr. Shnitka is a former Vice President of JAHSENA.



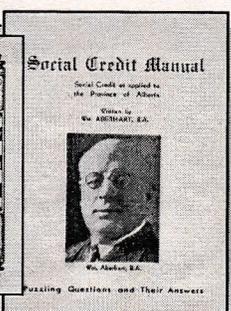
Advertisement for the Franklin Press. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Dr. Theodor Shnitka.

דער צוואנציגסטער יארצייט
דר הרצל
20th ANNIVERSARY
DR. HERZL'S DEATH
A MEMORIAL SERVICE
 to honor the Memory of the Immortal Founder of modern Zionism
 to be held at the **EMPRESS THEATRE** on Sunday, July 27, at 8 p.m.
Mr. Peretz Hirshbein, the noted Jewish Author
Rev. Smolensky and other speakers will address
CHILDREN OF THE TALMUD TORAH and others WILL PARTICIPATE!
No Appeal Everybody Welcome Do Not Miss This
 The Joint Committee

The Greatest Jewish Picture of Palestine
EVER FILMED
The Dream of My People
 Presenting The Late
Cantor Joseph Rosenblatt
 AT THE
STRAND THEATRE
Wednesday, Dec. 5th
11:30 p.m.

(above) Advertisement in Yiddish and English for a film featuring the famous Cantor Joseph Rosenblatt. Franklin Press, circa 1930. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Dr. Theodor Shnitka.

(left) This poster, printed by Abraham Shnitka of the Franklin Press in Calgary, 1924, advertises a memorial service for the 20th Anniversary of the death of Theodor Herzl, the father of modern Zionism. The 100th Anniversary of this death was celebrated this past July 27th. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Dr. Theodor Shnitka.



(above left) Book Plate designed by Abraham Shnitka. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Dr. Theodor Shnitka.

Social Credit Manual, 1935. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Dr. Theodor Shnitka.

JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

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

National Council of Jewish Women, Edmonton Section: 50 cm. Text and photos, 1 textile item, 1 award/plaque. Donated by Jodi Zabłudowski.

"Jews in Thunder Bay: An Historical Overview," published by the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada, 2003.

"Our Musical Heritage: A Century of Jewish Musicians and music in Winnipeg." Written and edited by Sharon Chisvin. Published by the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada, 2000.

"The Oral History Reader." Edited by Robert Perks and Alistair Thomson. Routledge: London, 1998.

"A City Goes to War", donated by Dan Kauffman.

"Valour Remembered", donated by Dan Kauffman.

Six inlaid wooden Marquetry panels from the Second Beth Israel Synagogue, gift of Robert Babee.

Wooden Torah Ark from old Talmud Torah School, gift of the Jewish Community Centre.

Film footage of Shlomo Carlebach concert, gift of Reevan Dolgoy.

Maccabi Canada Video: Two Weeks to Experience, A Lifetime to Remember. Gift of Debby Shoctor.

"The Holocaust" Directed by Barbara Streisand, Starring Elizabeth Rosen. 48 minutes in length. VHS tape. Gift of City Lumber and Millwork.

"The Life of a Neighborhood: A History of Edmonton's Oliver District, 1870 to 1950" by Lawrence Herzog and Shirley Lowe. Edmonton: Oliver Community League, 2002. Gift of Dan and Esther Kauffman.

"Evergreen & Gold", 1956-1961, the University of Alberta Yearbook, gift of Dr. Manuel and Rhoda Friedman.

Photograph, "Board of Directors of the Edmonton Talmud Torah, 1934-1936"; Photograph, Na'amat/Pioneer Women, circa 1930s; Menorah Curling Club Sweater worn by Shim Laskin. All gift of Mrs. Shirley Laskin.

VHS videotape, Vegreville Synagogue. Gift of Dr. Eli Adler.

ORAL HISTORIES:

Minnie and Harvey Emas; Dasha Zottenberg, all interviewed by Brandy Graesser.

The Jewish Archives & Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta is always looking for new donations. If you have any personal papers, photographs, negatives, books, audio-visual recordings or other items relating to the history of the Jewish community of Edmonton and Northern Alberta that you would like preserved for generations to come, please contact our office at (780) 489-2809.



ON THE WEB...

Our archives is now a full-fledged member of the Archives Network of Alberta Database. If you visit the Archives Society of Alberta website at

www.archivesalberta.org, you will find the holdings of JAHSENA listed on their database. We currently have over 165 fonds-level descriptions listed on their searchable fonds-level database. In Alberta In Sight, the photo database, we have over 395 photos digitized. In Alberta in Word, there are over 400 digitized documents. We are also participating in a virtual exhibit in honour of Archives Week, Oct 3-9, entitled: "Women Who Made a Difference". While you're on the web, check out our own site at www.jahsena.ca. And please note that our email address is: jahsena@shaw.ca. Starting on September 30, go to www.edmontonhistory.ca to see the new website launched by the City of Edmonton in honour of its 100th anniversary on Oct. 8. Both the books and the website feature stories and pictures of our Jewish community history.

DONATION

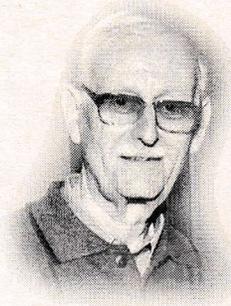
A donation of in honour of Peter Owen's special birthday has been made to JAHSENA by Dr. Marvin and Donna Weisler and family. Thank you!

A donation in honour of Peter Owen's special birthday has been made to JAHSENA by Paul and Clara Kagan. Thank you!

A donation in honour of Peter Owen's special birthday has been made to JAHSENA by Kayla Shoctor. Thank you!

**LESS THAN
40
COPIES**

LESS THAN 40 COPIES of our history book are left! YES! Only 40 copies of "The First Century of Jewish Life in Edmonton and Northern Alberta", by Uri Rosenzweig are left. At \$50 a piece, they are going fast, so get them before they are gone. When they're gone, they're gone!



Two year's work well worth the time and effort

by DAN KAUFFMAN, President, JAHSENA

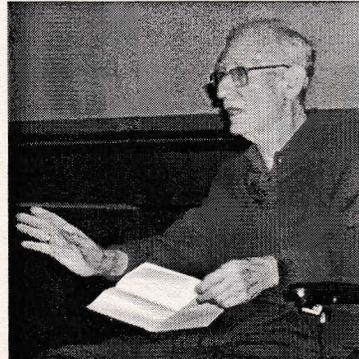
It's five days to the premiere and the Producer is feeling a little unsettled.

Our editor has a little last minute "tweaking" to do on the documentary. The pictures are all there. David Bernstein's music fits well as does Jim Edward's narration. The interview elements are finalized. So...what's left?

Editors like to do their "tweaking". It's what makes them editors. I know all this because, in a distant life, I was an editor. Our editor, Alan Bibby tells me to relax, everything is in order, and have faith. So far, I have seen this documentary take shape

on a very small screen in an edit room. How is this going to look on a large, theatrical-size screen? How many people will devote their Sunday night to see it? Should I show up or go off to bed?

I felt much better once I saw the number of people who appeared at the Museum theatre. Very gratifying. I hope everyone enjoys the production. At the back of the theatre, I was delighted at the look of the documentary on the large screen. I saw elements in the pictures I hadn't seen before. In a way, it was like looking at the



Dan Kauffman explains his artistic vision. Photo courtesy Debby Shctor.

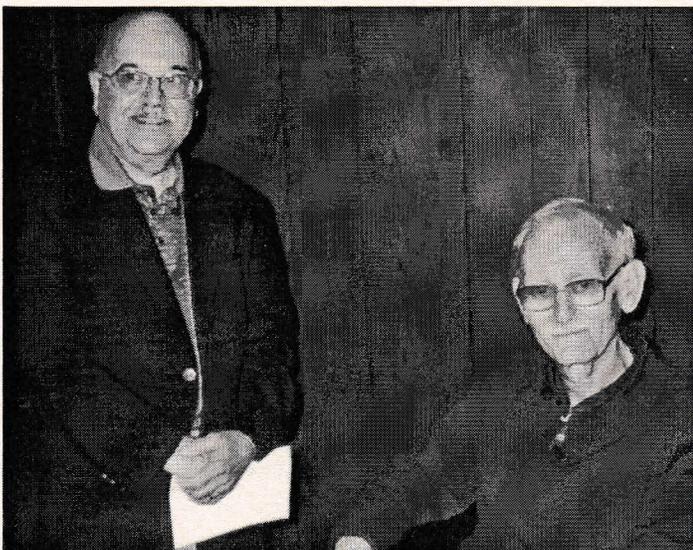
documentary for the first time.

The reaction afterwards was quite overwhelming to me. The memories the photo images evoked, the comments from the interviewees, the

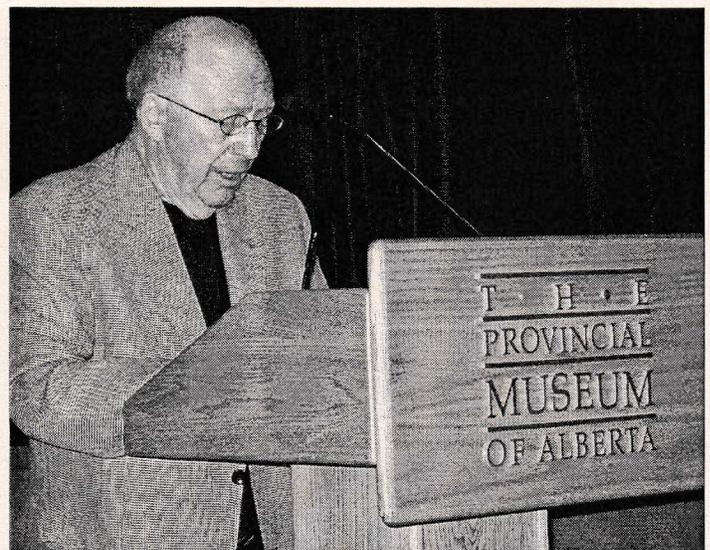
narration and the overall content seemed to communicate in the way both Reevan and I hoped it would. As I said at the opening, I hope this will help viewers understand who we are and what we are about – that the pictures and documents we possess should be cherished and preserved for generations to come.

The two years' work was well worth the time and effort. For those who missed the screening, we hope to screen it again at our annual general meeting in November.

–Dan Kauffman



Harry Goldberg, Vice President, Membership of JAHSENA, congratulates Dan Kauffman, President, at the Premiere. Photo courtesy Neil Loomer.



Mandle Nozick, Administrative Vice President of JAHSENA. Photo courtesy Debby Shctor.



Leslie and Lilian Green, wedding picture, circa 1940, JAHSENA Archives, donated by Lilian Green

Leslie & Lilian GREEN

Much has been written about Leslie Green's achievements, nationally and internationally, and when I listened to oral interviews of Leslie and Lilian Green, conducted in 2002 by Peter Owen, former Chair JAHSENA Oral History Committee, these achievements are confirmed. As Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta, Leslie's academic and international successes are discussed on the audio-tapes which are in JAHSENA's tape collection. From those tapes I am highlighting Leslie and Lilian's early history. In their own words they tell their stories. —Joy-Ruth Mickelson

Leslie Green was born in London, England in 1920. "My mother was born in London, her parents came from Lithuania, and my father was born in Roumania but came to England when he was five years old. My paternal grandparents were quite orthodox but had a liberal strain." This contrasted with his maternal grandmother's experience: "she never really adapted to English life. My mother took her to the mikveh every Friday." At home, Friday nights and the High Holidays were "extremely significant; there was no traif [unkosher food] in our house and my parents did not eat out." Leslie went to Hebrew classes two or three times a week after school and "for a brief period I went to one of the Yiddish schools run by the Jewish trade unionists". One of his uncles was a member of Poale Zion and in his uncle's home Leslie met Golda Myerson, Moshe Shertek and Beryl Locker. Leslie was the first of the grandchildren to go to a grammar school, winning a scholarship to the Davenant school in Whitechapel¹, "the heart of the Jewish ghetto." The headmaster was a barrister and taught Leslie history,² "he made history a living subject. I was always interested in law

and he encouraged us to take intermediate law while still at school". He studied law at the University of London in 1938, "but in 1939 the faculty was evacuated to Aberystwyth in Wales and in 1940 the faculty was relocated to Cambridge. I was in the enviable position of having studied law in London, Aberystwyth and Cambridge."

Calcutta, India, where Lilian Denise Meyer was born, is 7,000 miles from London. There she lived, with her parents and two brothers. "Calcutta had quite a substantial Jewish population. There were all classes: working class; middle class; landowners who'd moved to Calcutta, a few of whom were involved with exporting opium to Hong Kong and Shanghai; and some landed gentry. My family was observant. My father was extremely strict, he lay tefillin twice a day, and heaven help us if we deviated. I like a religion with a tradition of forgiveness, whereas our father was a martinet. We were not allowed to do a thing on Saturday. If you picked up a needle by mistake — again — heaven help you. I went to the Loretta convent and after that to a boarding school in Namkum. I was thinking of going to

university but I wasn't sure what I wanted to do so in the end I took commercial courses like my friends. Very soon after that I joined the Navy. They offered me a direct commission and I went to Officer Training School — this was 1942 in Bombay. I was first classified as a Cadet Officer and then as a Second Officer and went to work for the Admiral's office. I had to handle the incoming messages and maintain the office. I never went to sea. I did board a destroyer and a submarine to view the latest radar equipment but was not allowed to talk about it to anyone."

This was the year after Leslie had joined the British army. He was originally in the Infantry, the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, but was soon switched to Intelligence where he had to learn Japanese to translate captured documents. "For fourteen months, five days a week, from nine to five, I was in deep immersion. I only learned to read, not to speak." In 1943 New Delhi was the General Headquarters for the Far Eastern operations. "I received a commission and later transferred into legal work and became the Deputy Military Prosecutor.³" Then he met Lilian. "I met a young woman, a Jewish girl, who was in the ▶

Royal Indian navy, and was an officer. And we clicked.”

Lilian tells how “on Friday nights all the Jewish troops used to go to the Interdenominational Chapel for services run by the American Jewish chaplain.” An American friend had arranged for Leslie to take Lilian to the service. Following this, “Leslie asked me out for a date and decided to take me riding. ‘Are you sure you can ride?’ I asked. [laughs] Not that I could! ‘Oh yes!’ he said. Well the horse decided to bolt, he was very spirited and slightly wicked. And that was the end of our first date. He (Leslie) was in hospital for two months. Very unromantic!”

Leslie prefers the word “strange” rather than “unromantic”: “Our courtship was a strange one. The first time I took Lilian out, I took her horse-riding and the next day I was in hospital with a broken pelvis. When I came back from sick leave, Lilian, who had been thrown from the same horse, was in hospital with a broken knee.” So the courtship was conducted by each visiting the other. Obtaining a marriage license also proved to be strange. Lilian continues: “My mother-in-law wanted a wedding in London and we were prepared to accommodate her. So we went to the District Commissioner for a license. ‘Are you prepared to swear as a Christian . . .’ and Leslie interjected: ‘I’m not a Christian. I’m Jewish.’ ‘What about your fiancée?’ ‘She’s Jewish, too.’ ‘Oh! I’m sorry. By British law I can’t marry you to a Jew. You’ll have to get the registrar of your domicile to do it.’ So we took our plight to the American chaplain who’d known us for six months and were happily married in Delhi.



Lillian Green, circa 1940. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Lillian Green.

“Shortly after we were married we were invited to a cocktail party. I was the only person in army uniform and I was told the Admiral wanted to see me. Nervously, I said ‘You wanted to see me, sir?’ ‘Yes, young Green, I could have you court-martialed.’ ‘What have I done, sir?’ ‘You married my secretary while she was underage, without my permission.’ Fortunately there was a twinkle in his eye.”

From 1946-1960 Leslie and Lilian lived in London and Leslie taught at the University of London in the law faculty.

In 1960 he was offered an appointment in the new law faculty at the University of Singapore. “I finished up as the Dean of the law school. There was a fine Jewish community in Singapore and the hospitality extended to the whole community was outstanding.” Lilian’s community involvement with agencies working with children, with family planning and with the Indian and Malay communities was extensive. “In Singapore I studied Chinese painting. I had an aptitude, but it requires concentration and calm and I’m not really proficient.”

Leslie was offered a position at the University of Alberta, and in September, 1965 they came to Edmonton. Lilian tells: “We arrived during a snowstorm and I thought I’d come to the high Arctic!” Something about the city must have appealed to them, however, for the Greens have remained in Edmonton to this day.

Leslie and Lilian’s daughter, Ann, has made an invaluable contribution to the cultural life of Alberta by her role in the arts, especially with writers and theatre. She now lives in Calgary, and is an avid horsewoman, despite her parent’s early equine mishaps.

1 The Whitechapel ‘ghetto’ is wonderfully represented in the book, “Say Goodbye: You may never see them again.” Paintings by John Allin and text by Arnold Wesker Jonathan Cape Ltd. 1974

2 Nick Lees, in an article in the Edmonton Journal, 13 November 2003, describes the teacher’s ‘unorthodox methods’. On the 2002 audiotapes, Leslie also tells the story of his having to defend Charles the First and Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Stratford.

3 op.cit. Nick Lees quotes Leslie’s experiences.

At the JCC...

Currently on display at the JCC you will find an exhibit of materials relating to and printed by the Franklin Press and Abraham Shnitka, King’s Printer. An article on this significant Press and Printer can be found in this issue. We are currently in the process of digitizing the Yiddish posters printed by Mr. Shnitka for inclusion in our database on the ASA website, so that scholars from across the country can see these significant documents for the first time.



This photograph was recently donated to our archives by Neil Loomer, Executive Director of Beth Shalom Synagogue. It shows a group of Jewish men in Edmonton, circa 1940. Front Row, L-R: _____, _____, Fred Swartz, _____. Second Row: Dr. Ben Margolus, _____, Danny Levine, Bill Levine, Louis Podersky, Ben Liebovitz, _____, _____, Harry Bloomfield. Third Row: Fred Podersky, _____, _____, _____, David Kline. If you can help fill in any of the blanks, or you know the setting, date or occasion for the photo, please phone Debby at: 489-2809.

From the Archives...

The following is a list of individuals interviewed for our Oral History Archives over the years. The interviews were begun back in the 1970s by the former Jewish Archives Committee of the Jewish Community Council under the auspices of the Provincial Archives of Alberta. This work has continued until the present day under the direction of such gifted volunteer interviewers as Peter Owen, Brandy Graesser, Reevan Dolgoy, Dan Kauffman, Cori Friedman, Eve Pascoe and David Nelson. If you are interested in being interviewed, or in interviewing your family, friends or fellow community members, please contact the office at 489-2809. We are also in need of a volunteer to summarize or transcribe our interview tapes.

Aaron, Dr. Ted; Adler, Miriam; Baltzan, Hymie; Barzel, Tslila; Berner, Lola; Bernstein, Ralph & Sarah; Bloomfield, Becky; Bloomfield, Harry; Bogoch, Manuel; Brumlik, Joseph; Bugis, Dr. Joe; Cashman, Tony; Cassirer, Marion; Chetner, Abe; Chetner, Jack; Chetner, Mrs. Israel (Rose); Chetner, Nate; Coad, Jim; Coad, Glen; Cohen, Hy; Cohen, Sam; Comisarow, Sophie & Bill; Cristall, Bunny; Cristall, Ernie; Cristall, Ted & Hazel; Dashevsky, Miriam; Adler, Helen; Davis, Ann; Davis, Jenny & Oseas; Dlin, Helen; Dlin, Sol; Dolgoy, Raye; Dolgoy, Dr. Max; Dower, Marvin; Dower, Mozanne; Eaman, Anne; Eaman, Jack; Emas, Harvey and Minnie; Estrin, Abraham; Estrin, Goldy; Fano, Albert; Fratkin, Abraham I.; Fried, Ethel; Friedman, David; Friedman, Israel R. & Charlotte; Friedman, Justice Sam; Garfin, Israel; Glassman, Rose-Marie; Gliener, Isidor; Goldsand, Dr. George; Goldsand, Judy; Goldstick, Cecil "Tiger"; Goldstick, Hyman; Goody, Dr. Dasha; Gorasht, Alex & Eva; Gorasht, Eva; Gorodetsky, Jacob; Green, Dr. Leslie; Green, Lilian; Greenberg, Tammy; Gurvitch, Curley; Hackman, Lena; Hamburger, Dr. Lew; Hardin, Anne; Hardin, Dr. Sam; Harris, Rubin; Hiller, Arthur; Huberman, Irwin; Hurtig, Mel; Mintz, Clara; Jacobson, Julia; Jagge, Sylvia; Klein, Queena Wershof; Klimove, Mitch; Kline, Ida; Kline, Lillian; Koplowitz, Eva; Kreisel, Henry; Kushner, Martha; Laskin, Shim; Laub, Saul; Levine, George; Lieberman, Justice Samuel;

Lieberman, Moses Isaac; Liebovitz, Ben; Lister, Phillip Golden; Loomer, Hymie; Lutsky, Miriam Glassman; Lyons, Earl; Lyons, Lottie; Marcus, Allen; Margolus, Charles; Margolus, Dr. Ben; Mickelson, Ed; Miller, Abe; Miller, Dr. Louis A.; Miller, Mrs. Ray; Nolan, Harry; Nolan, Ruth; Nozick, Mandel; Nozick, Norma; Ore, Aaron; Owen, Peter; Owen, Violet; Paull, Helen; Pekarsky, Minnie; Podersky, Anna; Podersky, Mr. & Mrs. Louis; Podolsky, Fannie; Postone, Evelyn; Postone, Rabbi Abraham I.; Promislow, Jennie; Cohen, Sam; Rodnunsky, Mania; Rolvingher, Sol; Rudolph, Tryna; Samuels, Harold; Samuels, Marie; Samuels, Ruth; Saslow, Jack; Saslow, Katie; Satanove, Julia; Sengaus, Ben & Tom; Shaw, Cecil; Sheckter, Frank; Sherman, Inger; Shnitka, Dr. Ted; Shoctor, Joseph Hyman; Shragge, Sara; Silverman, Norman; Simons, Simon; Alexander; Simpson, Sy; Singer, Millie; Sklove, Frank; Slutker, Samuel Abraham; Smigelski, Mike; Snell, Dr. Bernard; Sperber, Geoffrey; Sperber, Robyn; Spevakow, Robert; Sterling, Ben, Moe & Emily Tolkan; Superstein, Ruth; Swartz, Fred; Swartz, Rose; Tapper, Dorothy; Tolkan; Tunis, Oscar; Ullman, Julian; Ullman, Leo; Ullman, Louis & Annie; Ullman, Louis & Sam; Ullman, Sarah Bercovitch; Ullman, Simpson (Sy); Warhaft, Leon; Weinlos, Dr. Morris; Weisser, Revella Hackman; Wershof, Charlotte; Witten, Norman; Wolochow, David; Wyne, Mel; Zipperstein, Eddie; Zottenberg, Dasha and Abe.

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 3-4 times a year.

Enclosed is my cheque/visa# for \$_____ Payable to the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (JAHSENA).

- Patron \$100
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 I have historical material that I would like to donate.
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Please clip out and return to: JAHSENA 7200-156 St. Edmonton, Alberta T5R 1X3