

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

VOLUME 11, No. 1

FEBRUARY 2001

Drumheller was Home to Active Jewish Community

by Jack Switzer

Drumheller, about 90 miles north-east of Calgary, is now best known for its geography—the Red Deer valley badlands—and its ancient past—the dinosaur remains found in the area and displayed in its famous Royal Tyrell Museum of Paleontology. But decades ago, beginning around World War I, Drumheller was the center of Alberta's most prolific coal fields. The town was founded in 1910, and by 1928 there were thirty coal mines in the area, producing over one million tons of coal a year for home heating, industry and railway steam engines.

Before World War II, there were only about 50 or so Jews among the area's population of about 4,500 (in Drumheller and adjacent towns like East Coulee, Nacmine, Newcastle and Rosedale), but they had a significant influence on the local business and social scene.

The earliest records available suggest that brothers Sam and Joe Joffe may have been Drumheller's first Jewish residents. Beginning in 1918 they ran several retail outlets, including groceries and men's wear stores. Joe Joffe operated a clothing store in the nearby ranching town of Big Valley for several years.

Drumheller's Jews were frequent visitors to Calgary on the regular railway services and later by car and bus. They owned no community building, but occasionally rented halls and ran their own High Holiday services. The Social Credit Hall has been mentioned as a Jewish religious venue.

In 1931 a Hadassah chapter was formed in Drumheller. Officers were: Mrs. B. Brickman, president; Mrs. S. Fasman, vice-president; Miss Dorothy Diamond, treasurer; and Mrs. G. (Gwen) Diamond, chairman of the National Fund.

A 1940 Jewish Post article about lawyer David Chertkow (likely submitted by the subject) illustrates how



Main Street Drumheller, c. 1918. This was the first of the stores brothers Sam and Joe Joffe, and later Noah and Leo, ran in Drumheller over a 40-year period beginning in 1918. Source – Jay Joffe.

Drumheller's Jewish community contributed to both Judaic and local causes.

"During his residence in Drumheller (for 10 years) Mr. Chertkow was president of the Canadian Jewish Congress (sic) and was active leader of the Jewish community there. He was largely responsible for the splendid contributions made by the Drumheller community to Youth Aliyah, U.P.A., Refugees, etc.

"He was an active member of the Kinsmen Club and a past president of the Drumheller branch. Mr. Chertkow was actively interested in anti-tuberculosis work and was secretary of the Alberta Tuberculosis Association. For a number of years he was secretary and general manager of the Drumheller Miners senior hockey club. He was also an active member of the Drumheller Board of Trade and took part in all community endeavors."

Newspapers note very few notable Jewish visitors to Drumheller, but in 1940 the city was part of a prairie tour by young

Jewish pianist Neil Chotem, of Saskatoon. The local Elks lodge, which had many Jewish members, sponsored the concert, with proceeds going to "the Lord mayor of London's war sufferers fund."

Drumheller's Jewish community shrunk with the post-war migration to the bigger Canadian centers that offered better Jewish cultural, religious and social amenities. Coal use decreased, and the area's underground mines became

Continued on Page 3

In this Issue:

- Drumheller was Home to Active Jewish Community
- Lillian Weiner – Drumheller Memories
- Early Jewish Communities in Central Alberta
- New Archives Material
- We Get Questions
- Thank You to all our 2000-2001 Members

This issue is sponsored by:



Renfrew Thompson Insurance Ltd.

Independent Brokers Since 1948 – Jack Edelson, Chairman

Lillian Weiner – Drumheller Memories

Lil Weiner was 95 when she was interviewed by Bertha Gold in 1996. She spent most of her adult life—45 years—in Drumheller. We have excerpted those parts of her interview that illustrate her family's life in that town.

Lillian Freedman Weiner was born in 1901, and immigrated to Winnipeg with her mother, Adele Freedman, in 1910. They had been preceded by her father, Nathan Freedman. In all, there were to be six children—Lil was the only girl—living in their tiny Winnipeg home.

She left school after Grade seven for a variety of jobs, finally learning typing. Her secretarial jobs helped augment her father's meager income from peddling.

She shared a room with a boarder, an American girl, who became her best friend. On a visit to her friend's family in St. Paul, Minnesota, she met Ed Weiner. They were married in 1922 and spent the first years of their marriage in the American city.

Unhappy with her life in St. Paul, Lil asked Ed in 1929 to move their family, by now including daughter Sharna, to Winnipeg. Ed worked as a rural peddler, first in Manitoba, and then farther west.

In Lil Weiner's own words:

Ed started going out on the road, selling made-to-measure suits. The farmers had these high buildings—grain elevators, and the managers used to sit in the offices there. And he used to go to these offices. They had never heard of made-to-measure suits—it was a novelty.

He went farther and farther, until he came to Alberta, and he hit Drumheller. And that night he phoned me and said, "Lil, I have found a gold mine." It was a coal mine. But they had three shifts a day. Thirty men would go down three times a day, and everybody got paid and had money. And they used to spend it on beer—never heard of made-to-measure clothes.

And Ed used to go in the evening to the beer parlor and buy this one a beer, and that one a beer, and get on the good side of them, and he was making money hand over fist selling them tailor-made suits.

Then he started looking for a house for us in Drumheller. But I was worried about my little girl, Sharna. She was an honors student and she was so little, but she knew so much. I didn't want to



*Lil & Ed Weiner, 1937, near Drumheller.
Photo – Sharna Laven.*

move because I didn't think the schooling was going to be as good. So Ed took us to Drumheller for a week during the summer holidays so we could see it.

I didn't like it. I didn't want to go to Drumheller. But eventually I did go, and it was the best thing I ever did in my life. It was in 1936. Sharna just finished Grade six. We came on July 19th in 1936. Ed was staying in a hotel, so we rented another room and we had two rooms. We walked and walked and walked along the streets and there were no empty houses. We finally found a house and it was near the school. It was a two-storey house and it was nice. And we lived there for eight years.

Ed was still selling suits. He wanted a store, but there was nowhere to rent. Finally he found a little hole in the wall, where the man who did the Calgary run worked out of—he got the papers from the train, and gave it to the boys who delivered it. The man, who was a cripple from the war, got sick and gave it up, so Ed took it over. He put a little table there, and at least he had a place to show his goods.

He was in there eight months, and I said, "Let's find out who owns this place." We did. It was a man in Olds, Mr. Hedges. I had a brother, Harry, who had a store in Ponoka, men's and ladies' wear. While we were on our way to visit him we stopped in Olds and asked Mr. Hedges to come to Drumheller and do some business.

He owned our little building and the land on both sides. We wanted a store,

so he built a store for us. We remodeled it three times—made it bigger, bigger, bigger. Ed had men's wear. He took a trip to Montreal; he wanted the suppliers to know him. And he bought ready-made suits and sports coats, and socks and ties and things like that.

And I am sitting in the men's store and he is selling suits, and I am helping. I am keeping books. And I thought, "All this empty space. I want to sell ladies' wear." It was off season—the travelers had already been through. So I phoned Winnipeg and find out names of the wholesalers. I knew it would cost me more than buying from the traveler, but I went there and bought the most beautiful clothing. It was sent to us by freight, before Christmas.

We had a disappointment. Our store was under construction, and the builder couldn't get any windows—it was during the war. So I had no display windows. That was a big loss. We took a beating that year, but I still wanted women's wear.

We had Mr. Hedges tear down the old store and put up one big building; it was 26 feet wide and 100 feet long. One side was the men's and one side was the ladies'. And it was beautiful. It was the biggest clothing store in Drumheller.

Ed and I had good help. We had four employees; six for sales. They were married women. They stayed with us for as long as they lived. Two we lost to health. We always paid above the minimum wage, and there were lots of discounts on clothes they wanted—it depended on what they wanted.

A lot of women came into the store, and some wanted me to join their club. I had never belonged to a club. I belonged to the Jewish club. The Eastern Star wanted to know if I had anyone in the family who was a Mason. You can't join unless you have a blood relative who is a Mason. I said, yes, I have two brothers who are Masons—one in the States and another one—Charlie—in the Crowsnest Pass. So the Worthy Matron, who was from the Crowsnest Pass, knew my brother. So anyway, I joined, and I loved it.

So I have to be installed. It's a beautiful ceremony and it's by candlelight. They take you to the altar, and they

Continued on Page 3

Drumheller was Home

Continued from Page 1

obsolete, speeding the exodus.

Lorne Shapiro, a realtor and son of area pioneers Sara and Bob Shapiro, is the one of a handful of Jews who now live in Drumheller.

Here is a partial list of other Drumheller area Jewish residents. Where possible, brief historical data is provided. Some information came from the memoirs of Lil Wiener (see accompanying story) and from Murt Davis, of Vancouver, whose parents, Claire and Jack Davis, ran Claire's Dress Shop in Drumheller.

Morris Levine, Whitehouse Hotel, early 1920s.

J. Goldberg & A. Groberman, Whitehouse Billiard Hall, early 1920s.

Morris & Sara Fasman – merchant, Munson; parents of Reata Polsky.

Izzy & Stella Aisenstadt, hotel in Rosedale.

Joey & Ida Garfin, ran theatre in Rosedale.

Ben & Fanny Backer, men's wear.

Ed & Lil Weiner, men's and ladies' wear – see story on page 2.

Myers & Gwen Diamond, confectionery, later insurance.

Mr. & Mrs. L.M. Vogel – sons Ernest and Max were both in the wartime Canadian Army.

Sam & Vivian Rootman, butcher, East Coulee.

Jamie Sanderson, butcher, Rosedale.

Jack & Gertie Wilder, grocery. Gertie was a Chertkow; Jack was a brother of H.E. Wilder, Winnipeg Jewish journalist and community leader.

Joe & Ruth Joffe, men's wear; later ran Garden Clothing in Lethbridge and Calgary; parents of Cy, Yale & Stella Joffe.

Sam & Elke Joffe, Joffe Bros. Outfitters

Leo & Bella Joffe, men's wear

Noah & Hattie Joffe, ladies' wear.

I. Chertkow, ladies' wear.

Jack Chertkow, confectionery (later insurance).

David & Rachele Chertkow, lawyer; later practiced in Calgary and Vancouver.

Dr. David & Dorothy (Diamond) Goldin, dentist.

Leon & Lil Zimmerman, grocer.

Bob & Sarah (Jaffe) Shapiro, Napier Theatre,

Dr. Saul Gelfand, dentist; took over Dave Goldin's practice.

Sam Malkin, Rosedale; worked for J. Sanderson.



Above: Claire & Jack Davis, c. 1946-47, Drumheller. Photo – Murt Davis.

Harry Srolovitz, moved from Rumsey in 1960, ran the Whitehouse Hotel with sons Ralph and Morris Sanders until 1975.

Manny, Sam and Morris Cohen, Hand Hills Ranch, 1948-60.

Drumheller Memories

Continued from Page 2

open the altar, and they read something. You have your eyes closed. And a man's voice tells you what to say. It's a familiar voice and I'm thinking 'who is it?' Finally I open my eyes and it's my brother, Charlie.

That was a beautiful, beautiful, beautiful evening. I was an officer of the Eastern Star for fourteen years.

And then I joined the IODE (Independent Order, Daughters of the Empire). I was very active in that. First I did it because of business, to get to know the ladies. And then I really became involved and I loved it, because they did good work.

When we built our house we had a lovely rumpus room, and a lot of meetings and socials, even with speakers, were at our house.

Ed joined the Rotary. He belonged to everything but he was not a club man. Anytime they wanted him to paint, or to help the Scouts or something, he was

there, but he was not really a club man.

I had a bad experience with the Jewish people in Calgary. One day in the 1930s I heard that an old friend of mine from Winnipeg, Rose Halpern, would be in Calgary talking to Hadassah at the House of Israel building. I got there early and took a seat. People came in, looked at me, and stayed away from me. To make a long story short, I ended up sitting alone, with an empty seat on either side. I was burned up inside, because I was taught that you introduce yourself to visitors and make them welcome.

After the speech I moved closer to the stage when everyone else did, to speak to Rose. She saw me, and said, "Lil, what are you doing in Calgary?" she came down from the stage and embraced me, and I was human again.

Then they announced they were all going for tea. I was hoping someone would invite me to join them. Nobody

did. I was left standing in the hall. When everyone left, I cried. I never told anyone this story.

Anyway, I like Calgary women now. It's a different generation. But what a miserable day I had.

We had a wonderful, wonderful social life in Drumheller. When we came, there were only three Jewish families. There were the Shapiros, the Joffes, and the Backers. We used to meet every Sunday and play poker. When we came there was Noah Joffe and Leo Joffe and their families. Dave and Dorothy Goldin came after us. There was Fanny and Ben: they left around 1950. There were Mr. and Mrs. Vogel, the Harrises, the Wolfmans—single boys. I remember Fred and Fanny Horodezky, and Gert Davis.

And then there were the Fasmans. They had a store about six miles from Drumheller, in Munson. By the time we

Continued on Page 6

Treasures from our Archives: A Documentary History of the Hebrew and Peretz Schools

by Harry M. Sanders

One of the most treasured of the Society's archival collections is found in the papers donated by the Calgary Jewish Academy in 1999. It is a binder containing the documentary history of the Calgary Hebrew School and the I.L. Peretz School, assembled in 1990 by Marg Rodgers.

From its establishment in 1912 to its transformation in the late 1950s, the Calgary Hebrew School evolved from an after-school cheder into a day school with its own building, complete with science labs, a gymnasium and classes ranging from kindergarten to grade nine. The I.L. Peretz School, founded in 1928, eventually offered a complete elementary school education that included Yiddish-language instruction. The two schools amalgamated in 1987 as the Calgary Jewish Academy.

Marg Rodgers' scrapbook lovingly

records the history of both schools through original and photocopied documents, ranging from newspaper clippings, handbills and event programs to class pictures and even a photograph of the plaque for the Calgary Hebrew School Grove at the JNF's Canada Park in Israel. The jewel of the collection is *Ershte Trit* ("First Steps"), a leather-bound collection of essays and writings by Peretz School students, published by the school in December 1930. Edited by Chaim Sheinin, Ida Roginski, Leah Pearlman and Martha Sheinin, this volume includes a dedication by poet Esther Shumiatcher-Hirshbein and an essay by her husband, Yiddish author Peretz Hirschbein.

Among the Calgary Hebrew School documents in the binder are photographs of the school's dedication, of a 1962 PTA open house, and of Rabbi Simon Smolensky handing the Smolen-

sky Scholarship Charter to the school's honorary president, Charles Waterman.

The I.L. Peretz School section of the binder contains fascinating documents that date back to 1928, the year of the school's founding. Among the highlights:

- a handbill announcing a "Grand Celebration" in honour of Dr. Chaim Zhitlovsky in 1929

- a 1935 handbill announcing two lectures by playwright and author Peretz Hirschbein, sponsored by the Kultur Committee of the Peretz Institute: "The Possibilities of a Jewish Republic in the Russian Union" and "The Economic and Cultural Conditions of the Jews."

- an announcement for a Groiser Bazaar, the Annual Bazaar & Dance of the Peretz Institute on March 7, 1934. "FULL COURSE DINNER WILL BE SERVED," announces the handbill. "DANCING TO A GOOD ORCHESTRA ... FULL LINE OF GROCERIES AND FANCY GOODS AT REAL BARGAIN PRICES. IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY JEW IN CALGARY TO ATTEND." The handbill concludes: "The very existence of the Institute depends upon the success of this Bazaar."

- an invitation to a banquet to celebrate the burning of the Peretz Institute's mortgage on Sunday, November 12, 1944. The guest speaker was Esther Shumiatcher-Hirshbein.

- a handbill announcing a "two in one" event: the Peretz School's annual meeting and the grand opening of the institute's new library, on April 11, 1962. "THIS IS A SIMCHA," the handbill advises. "NO APPEALS."

- a 1965 prospectus that highlights its "outstanding staff of trained teachers": Principal Benjamin Abay; Aaron Eichler; kindergarten teacher Lila Miller; and music director Edith Pearlman. The prospectus notes of the "English staff", who taught the Alberta curriculum: "Public school inspectors have not only been pleased with their work, but have classified them as among the finest teachers in the city."

These documents, and many others from Calgary's Jewish schools, can be viewed in the JHSSA's office during open hours.

פּרעזענטירט אײַן קאלגארי

דער באליבטער אידישער שריפטשטעלער, דאמאסטאט און לעקטאָר
קומט אויף א קורצן באזוך קיין קאלגארי ער וועט דא
האלטן בלויז צוויי לעקציעס

'די מעגלעכקייט פֿון א אידישער
רעפּובליק אין סאוועטנפארבאנד'

פּרײַטיק דעם 22-טן פעב.

— 8:30 אונט —

'דער עקאנאמישער און קולטורעלער
מצב פון אידן אויף דער וועלט'

מיטוואך דעם 27-טן פעב.

8:30 אונט

ביידע לעקציעס אין פּרין-זאל

קומט מקבל פנים זיין דעם איינציגן אידישן שרױבער, וואס איז אויך ענג פארבונדן מיטן אידישן
ישוב אין קאלגארי. פריז חרשביינא לעקציעס וועטן שטערק אינטערעסאנט באגלייט מיט אן אייגנע
ארטיקל איידעלן געפיל פון א שרױבער מענטשלעכער באציאונג

קולטור קאמיטעי
בא דער פּרין שול

Portion of poster announcing 1935 Peretz Hirshbein lectures.

Early Jewish Communities in Central Alberta

by Myra Paperny

While the Jewish migratory movement in Alberta converged on the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, a minor segment headed for more rural areas. (The first Jewish census lists 242 Jews in the province in 1901.) Some chose Lethbridge and Medicine Hat while many opted for the farm settlements of Rumsey and Trochu.

However, there was yet a third, largely forgotten group, of new immigrants, who struck out alone—with only their immediate families as support—for the scattered towns and hamlets of central Alberta.

In the beginning this group was largely isolated from the Kehillah (community). These intrepid souls were deprived of any supportive infrastructures such as benevolent societies, synagogues, minyans, kashrut, charities, Landsmanshaften, and even their mother tongue. In addition, these pathfinders were exposed to the authentic face of the outside world.

The newcomers were predominantly self-employed: either they ran their own small businesses in towns from Athabasca, in the north, to the American border or they were employed by Jewish merchants owning small chains throughout the province (eg: Brody's Ltd. in several of the towns, and the Lawrence Department Stores in Lacombe and Red Deer).

In addition to drygoods, hardware, furniture and general stores, there were a few small hotels; one family also bought furs and seneca root for medicine from the local Indians.

Several families moved to the cities after only a few years, such as the David Cohens in Smoky Lake (1908). By 1931 only 8% of the Alberta Jewish population of 3,722 remained rural.

Still later, the enormous effects of the Great Depression sent other migrants scurrying to small town Alberta in the hope of achieving a better living away from the highly competitive environment of the cities. Most intriguing, when interviewed, all these 'country cousins' were insistent that their eventual return to the cities had always been inevitable, no matter how successful they became in terms of community integration or financial independence.



Green's Ltd., Ponoka, AB, 1935. Source – Myra Paperny

In general they were highly successful in achieving their goals: first, in overcoming the suspicions and prejudices of their new neighbors. (Many of their neighbors had never previously encountered a 'real' Jew, while others were burdened with long histories of hate and distortion.)

Secondly, the eventual return to the cities was dictated by fear of assimilation—intermarriage of their children—or the lack of available higher education for offspring.

When interviewed, these families (or their children) always spoke of involvement in local town councils, fraternal organizations, IODE, Red Cross, Library Boards, Canadian Legion, etc.

During the 20s, 30s and 40s they managed to organize—along the main highway between Edmonton and Calgary—their own extended network. They set a pattern of meeting monthly in each of the member towns. The group came essentially from Red Deer, Lacombe, Ponoka, Wetaskiwin and Camrose with families from Vegreville, Millet, Innisfail and other outposts, joining when the weather was fine and the roads open.

The women ran an active Hadassah Chapter (Deborah Chapter). The children relished their own sessions of fun and games, while the husbands exchanged business information and played cards. In the evening the host family would provide a bountiful dinner. Often this repast was followed by a guest speaker from the equivalent of the National Jewish Appeal. The lecturer kept the adults up-to-date on current Jewish affairs while the younger children napped in the bedrooms until

it was time to drive home.

No community was ever large enough to consider establishing a synagogue so everyone drove to the cities for major Jewish holidays. A shochet arrived occasionally to kill chickens for those who kept kosher. During World War Two, with the advent of gas rationing, the families often remained together for minor holidays such as Hanukkah. Of course the young Jewish servicemen from Great Britain, who were stationed at the Penhold air base for training, were invited to the various towns for weekends. This social pattern flourished until the late 40s; after the war it disbanded as many member families dispersed to the cities.

Anti-semitism reared its head here as in larger communities. One child remembered teaching her friends a lesson about stereotyping. She recalled hiding at least two dozen local children behind her high carragana hedge on a spring Sunday, waiting for the Jewish groups to arrive for a meeting.

"See," the young girl whispered, pointing to a beautiful, snub-nosed, blonde woman—Anne Schloss—as she stepped out of a car. "That lady is Jewish and blonde and she has a tiny nose. Admit it, you were all wrong." She felt a great sense of elation as her friends shook their heads in astonishment.

A list of known families and the towns of central Alberta in which they lived is included. The names and numbers of their children is not included.

WETASKIWIN: Bessie and Sam Slutker ran the 'Wetaskiwin Hardware and Furniture'; in partnership with their relatives Anne and Harry Perler.

Continued on Page 8

We Get Questions

by Agi Romer Segal

A major objective of the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta is to "make accessible for public benefit the history and artifacts of the Jewish people of southern Alberta" and also "to undertake and to encourage research". This mandate of public education is fulfilled through JHSSA publications, programs, exhibits and also by our attempt to answer the research inquiries that come our way.

We have been keeping records of these inquiries since 1994 and we have almost a hundred documented requests. A review of these queries reveals a wide range of topics and a broad spectrum of researchers.

The most frequent type of query is that coming from private individuals seeking specific information about their own family. Some are looking for dates of birth, death or marriage; others would like a photo or a more detailed family history. Our cemetery records have been very helpful for such requests. Often the only information we can locate about a family member is our photo of the gravestone and whatever information that provides. This can often be the start of a fruitful search.

Our photo files, especially of wedding portraits, have also been useful.

We get many inquiries from non-Cal-

garians trying to trace roots in this area. On occasion we have even managed to put people in touch with living relatives among our own membership. Many requests are for help in trying to determine possible Jewish roots. Usually these will involve more detailed research and such researchers are referred to the Jewish Genealogical Society for help on how best to begin a search for their roots. Board member David Bickman has been of great help in the past in answering questions about sources of genealogical information such as passenger lists and government records.

Other genealogical information is more readily available, such as the spelling or location of a specific European town or the possible variant spellings of a family name. These can usually be found in the reference books in our library.

We are frequently asked to provide answers to more general questions dealing with Judaica—to locate a certain book, the address of other Jewish institutions, information about other Jewish communities (for travel purposes), dates of historical events, the conversion of secular dates to Hebrew calendar dates.

We have also provided extensive material to students and teachers at all levels for school projects about the history of the local Jewish community. A number of scholars have also consulted our files for their research as they prepare articles and even books. These requests for information have come from across Canada, the U.S., and Israel. They have been about local individuals (e.g. Two Gun Cohen, Shaie Jaffe), local organizations (Calgary Film Exchange), anti-semitism, and publications. One request was for information about the Moose Jaw synagogue by an artist working on a painting.

The JHSSA has also provided an important service to a variety of institutions. Many of our local organizations turn to the JHSSA for information about their own history as they prepare to celebrate important milestones.

We have provided information to the Provincial Museum, to national Jewish organizations and to other historical societies. One interesting request was for information about Jewish owned homes in the Cliff Bungalow area for a historical survey that was being carried out for

preservation purposes. We were also asked for plans and photographs of the House of Israel when the fate of that building was being determined.

While we have certainly not been able to provide complete answers to all the questions that come our way, we do try to at least find a possible source for further information. Often our own researcher, Jack Switzer (who uses our archives extensively), or our oral history expert, Bertha Gold, can suggest a helpful source.

It is gratifying to see our files, books, archives and oral histories being widely used and appreciated. As we get more and a greater variety of material donated, we are able to successfully answer more research inquiries and so better fulfill our mandate to educate the public.

Early Jewish Communities

Continued from Page 5

Lou and Vera Ragosin (he managed the local Brody's).

CAMROSE: Schloss, Al and Ann (he managed Brody's); Hy and Lil Corday (Eliot's Ladieswear); Sarah Fisher (employed by Brody's); the Chatterern family; Dr. Ernst and Hilda Billig (local veterinarian); Cece Shaw, teacher and Rube Goldstein family.

HAY LAKES: David and Katie Cohen, general store (also operated stores earlier in Smoky Lake and Leduc).

PONOKA: Ruth and Harry Brody (managed Brody's); Michael and Jessie Green (Green's Ltd. Men's Wear); Dr. Morris Carnat (pre-WWII doctor at Ponoka Mental Hospital) and Nessa Leckie (nurse, mental hospital).

LACOMBE: Harry and Flo Freedman (managed Lawrence Dept. Store, later partnership with Mike Green).

RED DEER: Jack and Jean Lawrence (owned Lawrence Department Store) and Gordon and Ann Keel (worked at bank).

OLDS: Ragosins.

LEDUC: Alec Kagnas.

MILLET: Tusman.

N.B. Obviously it is impossible to assemble a list of every family in these areas. Apologies for any families who inadvertently may have been omitted.

Information collected by Myra (Green) Paperny from Florence Brody, Mass Morris, Ruth Brody, Lil (Finkleman) Corday and Roz (Slutker) Steinberg.

Drumheller Memories

Continued from Page 3

sold the store there was nobody left.

We closed the store in 1973, February. I had enough. Not only that, I saw a change in my husband, he was getting forgetful. And I felt we didn't need it any more. Enough was enough. We had worked a long time.

We stayed in Drumheller for several years. I didn't want to give up my house. I had always lived in small quarters, and I loved our big house. We partied a lot and we had an awful lot of people in our home.

We didn't leave Drumheller until 1979. Ed wasn't getting any better. I didn't want to leave Drumheller, but I wanted to be in a place where there were good doctors and good hospitals. □

Thank You To All Our 2000-2001 Members

MEMBERSHIP

Ethel Allman
Harriet Barrett
Edythe Barsky
David & Sonia Bickman
Clara Blackstone
Joe Brager
Anne Brodsky
Ruth Carnat
Dov & Arlein Chetner
Cherly Cohen
Emanuel & Donna Cohen
Lionel Conn
Sid & Bronia Cyngiser
Les & Mim Diamond
Dave & Delsie Dworkin
Zena Drabinsky
Jeff Eichler
Harold & Florence Elman
Mel & Deanna Fishman
Annette Friedman & Allan Kolinsky
Leo & Arla Friedman
Ida Garfin
Edith Gelmon
Saul & Louise Glin
Bertha Gold
Helen Goldenberg
Dorothy Goldin
George Goodman
Sam & Anne Goresht
Dr. Ralph & Sheila Gurevitch
Nelson & Debbie Halpern
Zelda Hanson
Leon & Becky Hapton
Ida Horwitz
Cy & Mona Joffe
Allan & Naomi Kerr
Morley & Eta Kerr
Angela Levenson
Mel & Carol Levitt
Bee Lewis
Rose Libin
Jack & Rose Lister
Sid Maclin

Allen & Wendy Mendelman
Lee Moster
Phil & Judy Parker
Edythe Pearlman
Mel & Reata Polsky
Corinne Promislow
Azriel & Tiby Presma
Shirley Rabinovitch
Jayda Rosenthal
Dr. Stuart & Irene Ross
Allan Sack
Leah Saltman
Allan & Sharon Sattin
Agi Romer Segal
Harold Segall
Sheldon Shagal
Jack & Betty Sharp
Leo & Goldie Sheftel
Ben & Ruth Sherwood
Morley & Cheryl Shore
Morley & Karen Sklar
Tillie Sklar
Donald Smith
Pat Smolensky
Joe & Sondra Spier
Alice Switzer
Jack & Shauna Switzer
Sam & Ida Switzer
Tyler Trafford
Doran & Patty Veiner
Isobel Viner
Jack Vinet
Jack Wise
Elliot & Minnie Zuckier

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mackie & Gladys Shuler
Albert Switzer - Edmonton

OUT OF TOWN MEMBERS

Bernard Belkin, Sunland, CA
Doreen Belkin, Toronto
Francis Bondaroff, Montreal
Vera Burns, Pincher Creek
Sander Caplan, Richmond, BC
Jack & Sylvia Chetner, Edmonton
Harold & Rosalind Citron, Fremont, CA
William & Bernice Cohen, Cupertino, CA
Esther Dubin, Encino, CA
Lillian Fishman, La Jolla, CA
Muriel Ginsberg, Victoria, BC
David Goldman, Brooklyn, NY
Sam & Lily Hamer, Vancouver
Belle Hapton, Beverly Hills, CA
Dvora Henkelman, Delmar, NY
Dan Kauffman, Edmonton
Cyril Leonoff, Vancouver

Les Moss, Edmonton
George & Connie Nagler, Beverly Hills, CA
Allan & Eve Sheftel, Vancouver
Andria Spindel
Jared Polsky & Debbie Levy, Larkspur, CA

NEW MEMBERS

Bob & Cleo Barron
Ben Karmel & Tamara Barron
Jeri Churgin
Rena Cohen, Israel
Melanie Collison
Cecil & Dorothy Feldman
Halley Givritz
Evelyn Gurevitch
Marla Maitman
Dr. Gordon and Helen Signer
Judy Shapiro
Andria Spindel, Toronto
Sandy & Caroline Steinberg, Pittsburg

BENEFACTORS (\$100 Plus)

Walter & Beverly Barron
Shelly Bercovich
Leon & Miriam Bloomberg, Oakland, CA
Dr. Martha Cohen
Jack & Rose Edelson
Marty & Sarah Fine
Sonny Gorasht, Seattle
Dr. Noel & Lil Hersfield
Jay & Barbara Joffe
Michael & Phyllis Moscovich
Chuck & Laurie Mozeson, Edmonton
Mel & Therese Nagler
Alex Osten
Maurice & Myra Paperny
Donna Riback
Faith Riback
Dave Rosenthal
Al & Phyllis Rubin
Dave Waterman
Stanley Winfield, New Westminster, BC

PATRONS (\$50 Plus)

Michael & Annabelle Bondar
Dr. Ted Busheikin
Murt Davis, Vancouver
Dr. Judith Dworkin
Jack & Brenda Eisenberg
Lil Faider
Dan & JoAnn Gordon, Thousand Oaks, CA
Herb Guttman, Toronto
Stan Guttman, Downsview, ON
Gordon & Eva Hoffman
Bob & Sydney Kalef
Joe & Maureen Katchen
Frank & Sophie Kettner
Sophie Kohn
Phil & Harriet Libin
Jared Polsky & Debbie Levy, Larkspur, CA
Dr. Harvey & Rayna Rabin

Morris & Miriam Sanders
Jerry & Fay Schwartz
Cliff & Ruth Selter
Betty Sherwood, Toronto
Maurice Silver
Rae Smithens
Dinah Spindel

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Barney Gelfand
The Calgary Jewish Academy
Jewish War Veterans of Canada
Chevra Kadisha of Calgary

SPECIAL DONATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM

Marty & Sarah Fine
Alvin & Mona Libin Foundation
The Estate of Minnie Gorasht
The Estate of David Spindel

BOOKS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE HARRY COHEN LIBRARY BY THE FOLLOWING:

In honor of Leo & Goldie Sheftel, on their 60th anniversary; by Allan & Eve Sheftel, Vancouver
To Dinah Spindel & family, in memory of David Spindel, by the JHSSA
To Benjie Marcovitch, Toronto, in honor of his Bar Mitzvah, by Henry & Avrona Gutman, Azriel & Tiby Presma, and Vav and Helen Walker
To Mel Nagler on his 70th birthday; Dr. Burt & Leni Hoffman
To Mel Nagler, on his 70th birthday, by Albert & Leona Bell, Les & Hazel Cosman, Jay & Barbara Joffe, Barbara Libin, and Murray & Pam Robins
To Vav & Helen Walker on their 50th wedding anniversary, by Alan & Lori Olyan

Yes, I would like to join the Jewish Historical Society

- ☐ Benefactor\$100
☐ Patron \$50
☐ Family \$25
☐ Single \$18
☐ Institution/Corporation..... \$30
☐ Other

Please include your name, address, postal code and home and business phone numbers, along with a cheque payable to:

Jewish Historical Society of
Southern Alberta
1607 - 90 Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2V 4V7

Do not send cash through the mail

Past Discovery Sponsors

B'Nai Brith Calgary, Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants, Mel & Reata Polsky, Dave Waterman, Renfrew Thompson Insurance Ltd. & We Can Copy, a division of West Canadian Industries.

PLEASE JOIN US - WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

JHSSA News

Genealogical Society

The Jewish Genealogical Society (Southern Alberta), a JHSSA affiliate, recently published the second issue of *Roots*, a journal written by JGS members.

Interesting guest speakers and field trips are scheduled for the coming monthly meetings.

Visitors are welcome. For information on membership or genealogy matters, call Florence Elman, JGS president, at 850-4337.

Cemetery Data Updated, Shared

The JHSSA and the Jewish Genealogical Society are co-operating with several groups to add our cemetery data (death dates, headstone translations, etc.) to several major genealogical and historical databases, all of which will be available to internet users. Headstones installed after 1994 (the date of our major headstone photo project) are now being photographed.

The Alberta Family History Society is adding the Jewish burial data to its compilation of information from all provincial cemeteries. The Jewish Genealogical Society is contributing local cemetery information to the Online Worldwide Burial Registry, an international Jewish genealogy web site.

Edmonton Jewish History in Print

A comprehensive history of Jewish life in Edmonton and northern Alberta has been published by the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (JAHSENA).

The *First Century of Jewish Life in Edmonton and Northern Alberta, 1893 - 1993*, contains 700 photographs and 96 family stories, in addition to numerous organizational and agency histories. There are chapters and photos of weddings, celebrations, academia, the business world, and small-town Alberta. The *First Century* was compiled and edited by JAHSENA president Uri Rosenzweig.

Copies of the limited edition history are available only from JAHSENA, at the Edmonton Jewish Centre, 7200 - 156 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5R 1X3. Cost is \$50, plus \$5 for mail orders.

B'Nai Brith Material Donated to Archives

The JHSSA recently acquired several boxes of local B'Nai Brith papers and artifacts, which are now being catalogued. Thank you to Jack Finegold for donating the materials, formerly in his care, to the Historical Society.

Donation Opportunities Help JHSSA

A number of donation formats are available through which you can remember special occasions and help our Jewish history work.

Historic-photo cards can be sent out to whomever you specify for any amount over \$5. Library books can be inscribed as the donor wishes for a minimum donation of \$36. Framed Book of Heritage Certificates, at \$100 or more, are sent out to your honoree. A duplicate is mounted in a Jewish Centre display case. This is an excellent opportunity to mark a really special event. Tax receipts will be sent to you for any amount donated.

Call Tiby Presma, at 281-3910, or call the JHSSA office to arrange for one of these donation opportunities.

Business History Project in High Gear

The JHSSA's Business History project is well under way, and has produced about 25 replies to date. We will begin publishing excerpts from these submissions in the next *Discovery*.

The business project is being co-ordinated by Sheila Gurevitch. If you or your family ran any type of business in southern Alberta, we are anxious to hear about it and to view your photos. Please mail them to Sheila at the JHSSA office.



A fine business history photo. Michael Green in his store, Ponoka, 1931. Photo - Myra Paperny

DISCOVERY

Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

President: Jay Joffe
Vice Presidents: David Bickman, Bertha Gold, Harriet Libin, Emanuel Cohen, Aziel Presma
Financial Secretary: Mel Polsky
Treasurer: Henry Gutman
Secretary: Zena Drabinsky

Directors: Arnold Cohen, Lionel Conn, Les Diamond, Jack Edelson, Florence Elman, Harold Elman, Sheila Gurevitch, Ida Horwitz, Barb Joffe, Sid Macklin, Mel Nagler, Therese Nagler, Judy Parker, Edythe Pearlman, Tiby Presma, Harry Sanders, Dinah Spindel, Jack Switzer

Editors: Jack Switzer, Jay Joffe

The Editors welcome submissions for publication relating to areas of Calgary and Southern Alberta Jewish History. All articles should be typed, documented and sent for consideration.

Statements of fact or opinion appearing in *Discovery* are made on the responsibility of the authors alone, and do not imply the endorsement of the Editors or the J.H.S.S.A.

Please address all communications on editorial and circulation matters to:

Discovery
c/o The Jewish Historical Society
of Southern Alberta
1607 - 90th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2V 4V7

© 2001 by the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta (a non-profit, registered society).
Donations gratefully accepted.