

ירשה

Heritage – Yerusha  
Fall 2013

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# HERITAGE

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

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### Hold that Date:

AGM October 24<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 pm

Beth Shalom  
Synagogue

Guest Speaker  
Lawrence Herzog

WHERE THE RED  
& BLACK FLY

WORDS & MUSIC BY JOE SHOCTER

OUR SONG V.H.S. EDMONTON

Price  
25c

"Where the Red and Black Fly", words and music by Joe Shocter, (note spelling error), published by the Students Union of Victoria High School for the Vic Varieties, 1945. This is still the official Victoria School Song. Thanks to Ruth and Harry Nolan for donating this very rare, original piece of sheet music!



## From the President,

by JINI VOGEL

October 2013

In 1996, the Founding President of JAHSENA, Uriel Rosensweig, and a group of writers and researchers compiled and edited a book, "The First Century of Jewish Life in Edmonton and Northern Alberta 1893 – 1993." This limited edition was a written tribute to the founding families of our community. The second President, Dan Kauffman, used his extensive television and documentary film expertise to produce two remarkable videos, "From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered" and "Bittersweet Memories: The War Years." Two pretty tough acts to follow.

When I became President in 2007, it seemed that there were many organizations in our Jewish community who shared similar goals but were working apart from each other with limited success. In 2008 we created a new "Community Outreach" portfolio to build a historical legacy strengthened by our joint support of each other. We have worked with a number of organizations within the Jewish Community providing information, research, displays and artifacts for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of Beth Israel, Chevra Kadisha and the Talmud Torah. We were involved with the Talmud Torah 100<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary, the Beth Shalom Galas and co-sponsored with Federation a Holocaust Survival speaker as well as co-sponsored Rabbi Baskin's talk with the University of Alberta Libraries. We partnered with Chevra Kadisha to establish the online Cemetery Project which was featured in the last Heritage Magazine. Most recently, we joined forces with the City of Edmonton and Fort Edmonton to demonstrate the Jewish presence in Edmonton's history by building the H.B. Kline Jewelry Store in Fort Edmonton.

It is my hope that we will continue to find ways to help each other and to maintain a strong, cohesive Jewish community.

This is the last time I will talk with you as President of JAHSENA as I now move into the cherished position of Past President. I strongly suspect I shall be even busier as Debby Shoctor has been stock piling boxes of "treasures" that need to be catalogued for our collection.

With a tear in my eye I thank you for the honour of serving as your President. I know great things are ahead for our organization. Shana Tovah.

Jini Vogel

## Letter to the Editor

*This letter was sent to Michael Paull, who recently visited his Uncle Alex Podolsky's grave in Prague. He wrote about this for the last issue of Heritage/Yerusha.*

Hi Michael,

Thanks so much for sending your beautifully written article, it really moved me.

As I think I mentioned, my dad was a pilot with 158 squadron, originally from south of Calgary, Claresholm, and seeing a

fellow Canadian's grave so far from home, and so young when lost was very touching, it could easily have been my Dad (and of course there would be no 'me', or my sister). He was one of the lucky ones, and as I learn more stories from those involved in the various Bomber Command tribute pages I follow, and from what my father had said when alive, it was just a matter of luck to get home again especially since Bomber Command had such an exceptionally high loss rate.

When I had posted the story about visiting the cemetery and getting in touch with

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# ירשה HERITAGE

The Journal of the Jewish  
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[www.edmontonjewishcemetery.ca](http://www.edmontonjewishcemetery.ca)

# Canadian Medals!



By HOWIE SNIDERMAN

Three young athletes from Edmonton were part of the Canadian team at the 2013 Maccabiah Games. Each of them brought home medals and each of them was involved in 'first-ever' achievements for Canada at the Games.

Rachel Mintz, coached by her husband Cory Choma, won a Gold Medal in the Women's Pole Vault competition. It was the first ever gold medal in Pole Vault for Canada at the Games. She also won a silver medal on the track in the Women's 4 x 400m relay.

Laurie Zalmanowitz won a silver medal in the Men's Wheelchair Tennis Doubles tournament and a bronze medal in the Men's Wheelchair Tennis Singles tournament. The 2013 Maccabiah Games were the first ever to include a Paralympic Division. Laurie's medals were, as it turns out, the first medals ever won by any Canadian athlete in the Paralympic Division at the Games.

Dan Steiner played on the Canadian Men's Soccer team. The team defeated Brazil 1-0 in the quarterfinals and Mexico 3-1 to win a bronze medal for Canada – the first ever medal for Canada in Men's Soccer at the Maccabiah Games.



Top: Rachel Mintz, Centre: Laurie Zalmanowitz, Bottom: Dan Steiner and teammates.



Dear JIMENA Members and Friends:

We'd like to take this opportunity to address a very important issue that many of you have inquired about. On October 11th, 2013 the National Archives in Washington D.C. will open an exhibition titled, "Discovery and Recovery" that displays 24 restored Jewish objects taken by American forces from Sadaam Hussein's secret police headquarters in Iraq in 2003. Some of the objects to be displayed include: A Hebrew Bible from 1568, a Babylonian Talmud from 1793, a Torah scroll fragment from Genesis (one of 48 Torah scroll fragments found), a Zohar from 1815, materials from Jewish schools in Baghdad, and other sacred ritual objects. **These objects are part of a larger trove of over 2,700 Jewish books and documents that have been in the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington DC.** According to an agreement between the US and Iraqi governments, the archive is slated to be returned to Iraq upon the completion of the exhibition.

Many of our members have inquired about what JIMENA is doing to ensure the archive is prevented from returning to Iraq. We want to assure you that efforts are taking place on numerous levels to ensure that the materials within the Iraqi Jewish archive are safely re-appropriated to the Iraqi Jewish community. JIMENA has, and will continue to support all efforts to return these confiscated private and communal properties to their rightful Jewish owners. We will certainly keep you posted on new developments.

Sincerely,  
JIMENA's Board, Staff, and Volunteers

## Dr. Jacob Masliyah *receives* Honourary Doctor of Science Degree *at June Convocation*

Jacob Masliyah, a legendary figure in the history of oil sands research, received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree this June from the University of Alberta. Masliyah told the graduating class of engineers that stick-to-itiveness and continual learning are keys to a successful career.

Masliyah, a professor emeritus in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, arrived at the U of A in 1977 and made his name with breakthrough research in oil sands extraction. Masliyah's leadership is recognized as vital to the university's emergence as a world leader in bitumen research.

Masliyah told his convocation audience that, as a young boy, he taught himself how to take daunting challenges. He equated the back-breaking work of construction workers digging a deep hole, one shovelful at a time, with a learning challenge he faced in school.

Masliyah's fifth-grade labour was memorizing and reciting poetry, in French. The doggedness of the workmen had made an impression. Masliyah devised a study plan:

"If I learn one poem every two days, by the end of three weeks I will have learned them all and I will have one week to go over them one more time. I did just that. I

passed the exam, and here I am today."

Masliyah applied the same principle to his engineering career. He was always willing to learn more. In 1990, Masliyah needed a thorough understanding of how, when mixed with water, a single grain of sand separates from a coating of bitumen. He set aside a year to pore through volumes of research to figure it out.

"But, shovel by shovel, word by word and page by page," said Masliyah, "I came to appreciate the surface science ramification to bitumen recovery from oil sands and tailings management."

That extra effort allowed Masliyah to move the science of oil sands processing forward, helping to minimize the use of water and energy to produce bitumen.

Masliyah urged the undergraduate, Master's and PhD engineers sitting before him to never sit back, thinking they know everything about their profession.

"Never stop learning. Never stop expanding your knowledge, not just in the engineering field but in the fine arts, history and science. Be a well-rounded engineer."

Dr. Jacob Masliyah's outstanding contributions over his 35+ year career have transformed the energy economy of Alberta and Canada. He has become a legend in



Dr. Jacob Masliyah, supplied photo.

the area of bitumen extraction from oil sands – developing the scientific foundation for commercial bitumen extraction and positioning the University of Alberta as a world leader in colloid and surface science. His approach to research balances science and engineering, and epitomizes his passion for solving real-world problems from a scientific perspective.

Dr. Masliyah received his chemical engineering education at University College, London, the University of New Brunswick and the University of British Columbia. He began his work on oil sands extraction when he arrived at the University of Alberta in 1977. His research evolved from fluid mechanics to fluid-particle dynamics to colloidal science, as he astutely added new dimensions to his research to address key issues in bitumen extraction.

The excellence of Dr. Masliyah's research has been recognized by numerous awards including the Alberta Science and Technology Award for Excellence in Oil Sands Research, the J. Gordin Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research from the University of Alberta, and the Frank Spragins Technical Award from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta. He also won the University Cup and the NSERC/Conference Board of Canada Synergy Award. Dr. Masliyah is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian



Dr. Jacob Masliyah, University of Alberta professor emeritus and honorary doctor of science, addresses engineering graduates during convocation ceremonies June 6. (Photo: John Ulan)

Academy of Engineering. In 2008 he was inducted into the Order of Canada. In 2011, he was elected Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Engineering, among the highest professional distinction-saccredited to an engineer worldwide.

Dr. Masliyah has published more than 350 peer-reviewed papers and has written three books: *Electrokinetic Transport Phenomena*; *Electrokinetic and Colloid Transport Phenomena* with Subir Bhattacharjee; and *Handbook on Theory and Practice of Bitumen Recovery from Athabasca Oil Sands: Volume I—Theoretical Basis* with Jan Czarnecki and Zhenghe Xu. Volume II of the handbook on *Industrial Practice* will be published in 2013.

In addition to being an internationally recognized researcher, Dr. Masliyah is also an outstanding teacher who inspires students with his enthusiasm, passion and knowledge. He won the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 1997. His immense value as a mentor and educator comes from a combination of academic excellence and real-world understanding, all of which he passes on to his students.

Another hallmark of Dr. Masliyah's career is his leadership in developing unique and exemplary academia-industry partnerships. In 1996, with support from Syncrude Canada Ltd., he established the first NSERC industrial research chair in oil sands engineering, which he held until 2008. The NSERC-IRC became the catalyst for a large number of industrial research chairs in the Faculty of Engineering.

The impact of Dr. Masliyah's research extends beyond engineering. His work has shown the way forward in the responsible development of Canada's oil sands, enabling the continued economic success of the industry while addressing key environmental issues. His research is a model for how enormous social and economic value can be generated through meticulous science and engineering grounded in the search for answers to industrial problems.

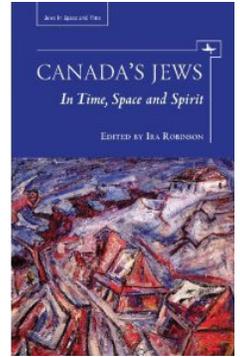
## New Publication

Just published! *Canada's Jews in Time, Space and Spirit*, edited by Prof. Ira Robinson, with contributions by noted Canadian Jewish History experts including JAHSENA's Archivist and Executive Director Debby Shoctor. Available on Amazon.ca.

Summary: Canada is home to one of the world's largest and most culturally creative Jewish communities, one of the few communities in the Diaspora that continues to grow demographically. With its ability to mirror trends found in Jewish communities elsewhere (particularly the United States), while simultaneously functioning as a distinct society, Canada's

Jewish community holds great interest for scholars, exercising a measurable influence on the culture and politics of World Jewry.

Consisting of a series of essays written by experts in their respective fields, *Canada's Jews* is a topical encyclopedia, covering a wide variety of topics, from history and religion, to the intellectual and cultural contributions of Canada's Jews. An indispensable reference book for both laypeople and for scholars of Jewish and Canadian studies.



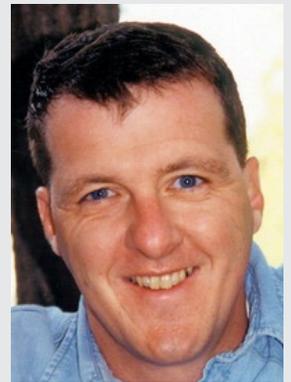
## JAHSENA AGM features Keynote Speaker Historical Writer Lawrence Herzog

This year's AGM will take place on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Beth Shalom Synagogue Lower Auditorium. Our keynote speaker will be Lawrence Herzog, a local historical writer who has written about many of our historic Jewish buildings in Edmonton, including the Synagogue itself.

Herzog has worked for more than 30 years as a writer, photographer, and broadcaster. His specialties include historical writing, profiles of people and businesses, and features on traffic safety, the environment, travel and tourism, the hospitality and retail sectors.

His book credits include two community histories on the Beverly and Oliver districts of Edmonton. He just completed a nearly 23-year run as a columnist for Edmonton's Real Estate Weekly, contributing more than 2,200 columns between 1988 and 2011. His features on built heritage now appear on the Edmonton

Heritage Council website at [www.edmonton-heritage.ca](http://www.edmonton-heritage.ca).



Herzog's national work includes articles and photos for YFM Your Foodservice Manager magazine, [www.yfmonline.ca](http://www.yfmonline.ca). He contributes articles to AMA's Westworld Alberta, CAA's Westworld Saskatchewan, AWARD magazine, and Enterprise magazine, and provide features and photos for the Visitor's Choice guides for Victoria, Nanaimo, Campbell River and the Comox Valley, and the International Choice tourism guides to Vancouver Island and the Okanagan Valley.

The meeting begins at 7:30pm and Lawrence will be speaking at about 8pm. Kosher refreshments will be served afterwards and admission is free.

# Helping Others See Clearly

## Jewish Optometrists in Edmonton

By PAULA E. KIRMAN

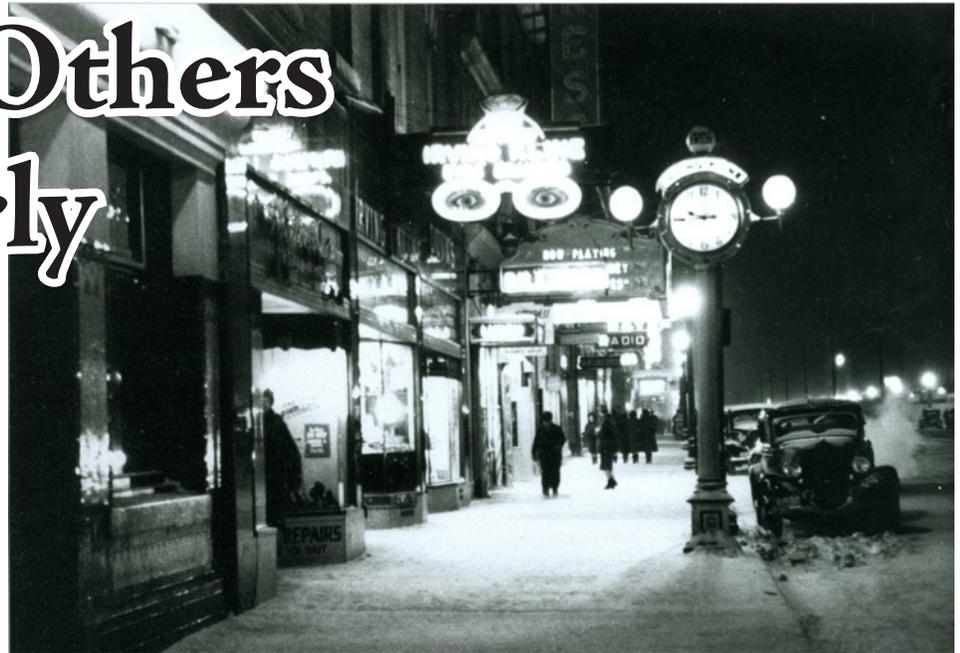
If you wear glasses, chances are that you have seen an optometrist. An optometrist is a health care professional who is trained to prescribe correctional lenses, as well as diagnose and treat various eye diseases. In Canada (as well as a couple of other countries), optometrists are known as Doctors of Optometry and are subject to high standards of training and regulation. In Edmonton, a number of people in the Jewish community are part of this profession or have been in the past.

### JULIUS ERLANGER



Julius Erlanger,  
JAHSENA Archives photo.

Julius Erlanger was an optometrist in the 1920s and '30s. He roomed with Harry Friedman when they were bachelors. When Friedman



Irving Kline sign and clock on the walk, City of Edmonton Archives photo.

and his wife Frances decided to take in a Jewish boy from Germany in the late '30s, Erlanger helped them find a suitable candidate, and helped to bring his nephew, 13-year old Jewish refugee Peter Offenbacher (who later changed his last name to Owen) to Canada – the only Jewish child permitted to immigrate alone to the country by cabinet order prior to World War II. Owen later brought his displaced family to Canada, became a lawyer, and retired in 2004.

Izzy Gliener recalls Dr. Erlanger's involvement in Beth Shalom when the

synagogue congregated in the top floor auditorium of the Talmud Torah on 103rd Street. "The Friday evening sermon from Rabbi Eisen was always a well-thought-out story and, of course, it was the highlight of the evening," says Gliener. "When sermon-time came - after the vigorous hymn-singing led by mezzo soprano Mrs. Irving Kline, whose New York voice filled the hall - Dr. Erlanger (who always sat at the back of the hall) turned off the hall lights so that the only light shone on Rabbi Eisen in his pulpit. He had a most pleasant and soft voice - for he was a gentle and soft Rabbi - and, the dimmed lighting combined with the rhythm of Rabbi Eisen's elocution offered some of the men in the congregation a quiet and gentle nap. When the sermon was over, Dr. Erlanger turned on the lights (the light switch was made of two stacked-button switches which made a sharp click when exercised) and that small noise, together with the sudden return of lighting, was sufficient to open eyes that might have been closed."

### MILT SPECTOR

The late Milt Spector worked with Julius Erlanger and took over his shop when Erlanger retired. He was originally from Winnipeg.



Julius Erlanger (second from left) with the Friedmans, JAHSENA Archives photo.

**IRVING KLINE**

Irving Kline,  
JAHSENA Archives photo.

Irving Kline, son of jeweler H. B. Kline, didn't want to be a jeweler like his father, so spent four years in Detroit learning to be an Optometrist, and then came back to

open an optometry department in the back of his father's store on Jasper Avenue in 1917. H.B. had dabbled in optometry previously, but had no formal training. On or around March 26, 1918, Irving Kline moved from acting as a "consulting optician" in his father's shop to his own optometrist shop at 10035 Jasper Avenue. In spite of great expectations, Irving did not have many customers for eyeglasses at first, so he had to start advertising, and became probably Edmonton's first advertising optometrist. He invented a slogan for his shop, "Where poor eyes and good glasses meet." After that, he started writing poems and other slogans, including, "I go to see the pictures since I went to see Irving Kline." He got into a bit of trouble on April 27, 1918 when a very creative advertorial appeared in the *Edmonton Bulletin* which some thought to be racist, touting Kline's opticians as the place where the victim of a mugging had bought "The best glasses he ever had." Three days later, an apology appeared in the paper.

However, even with the advertising he didn't get enough business. People were more interested in buying watches, so he decided that, like his father, the money was in jewelry, and he became a jeweler as well. He consulted with his friends Abe and Ralph Cristall, who suggested he become a credit jeweler, and so in 1922 he became Alberta's first credit jeweler. His slogan was: "Your Credit is Fine with Irving Kline."

**LEON SINGER**

Dr. Leon Singer was born on June 10, 1925 in Liverpool, England, the fourth of eight children born to Gertrude and

Simon Singer. He was interested in science and biology from a young age. After serving in the British navy during World War II, he decided to study optometry and graduated from the University of Liverpool as an optometrist. Singer was the first member of his family to obtain a university education. He married his first wife in Liverpool and had two sons. While he originally enrolled in medical school, he switched to optometry after his marriage, to allow him to support his family more quickly.

In the mid-'50s Singer immigrated to Canada after his divorce, where he worked for the government providing optometric services on First Nations reservations in Saskatchewan. He remarried, to his second wife Florence, in 1957. In 1963, he moved with his wife and two young children to Edmonton. He worked as the in-store optometrist at Woodward's Department Store in the newly-built Northgate Centre shopping mall when it opened in 1965. In 1970, Dr. Singer opened his own optometry practice in North Edmonton on 97<sup>th</sup> Street near Northgate Mall. His practice thrived and in the mid-1970s he opened a second office in the Links Clinic which was located on 124<sup>th</sup> Street near Stony Plain Road. Dr. Singer retired from optometry practice at age 60 in 1985.

Singer was an active member of the Beth Shalom Synagogue and Edmonton B'nai Brith. He also was a board member of the Talmud Torah during the '60s and early '70s. Two of his children, Jessica Levental and Adam Singer, recall Singer as a friendly and sociable person who enjoyed meeting and helping a wide variety of people through his optometry practice. In fact, he offered his services on credit and often did not get paid for his work.

**DAVID KLINE AND HAROLD KLINE**

David Kline, son of Irving Kline, graduated in optometry from the University of Toronto in 1940. His brother Harold had gone into optometry as well. David did not like the profession, so he decided to

stay in his father's jewelry business. After spending four years in the army in the medical corps as an optometrist, David returned to his father's store, where he remained until he retired in 1981.

David is a past-president of Beth Shalom synagogue. He moved to Vancouver in 1981 after his first wife passed away. He has one daughter in Vancouver and a son in Birmingham, Alabama who is a neuro-ophthalmologist.

**ROCKY FELDMAN**

Feldman is an optician (grinds glasses from a prescription written by an optometrist or ophthalmologist – doctor who specializes in diseases of the eye). He has worked at Bonnie Doon Optical in Edmonton, and is the brother of Michelle Huberman.

**IZZY GLIENER**

Izzy Gliener,  
JAHSENA Archives photo.

Izzy Gliener also had a career as an optician, prior to starting his current business. An entrepreneur by nature, he opened his eyeglass business in the then-new

Baker Centre in 1969. Although the business faltered at first, he began importing high-fashion optical styles which led to success. Gliener sold the business after 31 years and started Acoustic Solutions, which helps counter noise-induced hearing loss by offering ways to reduce hazardous noise levels. "My involvement in the Jewish community is limited to ongoing gastro-nomic adventures and social connections," he says. He adds that he keeps a kippah handy for times when he is asked to take part in men's minyans.

*Continued on page 8*



David Kline,  
Hebrew U. photo.

## HELPING OTHERS SEE CLEARLY

*Continued from page 7*

### MARK GARFUNKEL

Mark Garfunkel is the son of Rachel (nee Verderber) and Sigfried (Fred) Garfunkel, both Holocaust survivors. His mother was born in 1930 in Krakow, Poland and immigrated with her family to New York, NY where she continued her education. Fred is an uncle to the well-known musician Art Garfunkel. Rachel and Fred moved to Edmonton around 2000 to join son Mark, an optometrist, and his family. The couple also have a daughter, Leslie, and recently moved to Newtown, PA. Mark was the owner of Callingwood Vision and Contact until his retirement.

### BEN DOZ

Dr. Doz graduated from the Southern California College of Optometry in 1990 and is the managing partner in The Optometrists Clinic, one of Western Canada's largest optometric practices. He is active with the Rotary Club of West Edmonton and in the mid-'90s took part in his first eye care mission in Guatemala, helping to provide general eye care and corrective lenses. He has been back to that country several times, providing his skills to those who need help with their sight. In 2005, Doz received the Rotary Service Centennial Service Award for Professional Excellence.



Above: Rachel Mandel and patient in her new Edge Optometry studio. Right: Rachel Mandel's new Optometry practice. Supplied photos.

### RACHEL MANDEL

Rachel Mandel, daughter of Mayor Stephen and Lynn Mandel, has been an optometrist since 2007. She graduated at NOVA Southeastern University in Davie, Florida in 2007 with her Doctorate of Optometry and a Bachelor of Vision Science. Prior to that, she attended Florida Atlantic University, earning a Bachelor of Biological Science in the Preprofessional/Premedical program. Becoming an optometrist had been a goal of Mandel's since she was 10. "I had a cool optometrist," she says. Previously having worked at a



Refractive and Cataract surgery centre, Mandel opened her own practice in August called EDGE Optometry. "I love working with people and providing the best health care balanced with cutting edge technology," she says. "All the art work in the new clinic is by talented artists that have taken their visual challenges (most are legally blind) and made stunning creations."

## JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

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

Eulogy of Suni Silverman and Talmud Torah scrapbook, donated by Ruth-Ellen Shafir.

"Where the Red & Black Fly," Sheet music of the Victoria High School Song, words and music by Joe Shoctor, and three copies of the Alliance newspaper, donated by Ruth Nolan.

Eulogy of Seema Leon, donated by Jeff Leon.

Eulogy and photo of Esme Sperber, donated by Geoffrey Sperber.

Eulogy of Hilda Rubin, donated by Jeff Rubin.

Seven kippot from B'nai Mitzvah celebrations in Edmonton and two Talmud Torah Happy Birthday pencils, donated by Stephanie Hendin.

"My Life as a Survivor in my Third Act," an autobiography by Uri Rosenzweig, 2012, donated by Uri Rosenzweig.

*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.*

# JAHSENA and the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha Launch New Website

The Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, along with the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha are pleased to announce the creation of a new website for the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery, [www.edmontonjewishcemetery.ca](http://www.edmontonjewishcemetery.ca). This project was funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, through Edmonton United Jewish Appeal.

The website will feature information about the Jewish Archives, as well as the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery, founded in 1907, and the Chevra Kadisha, the non-profit, volunteer society which runs the Cemetery. All of the over 1800 burials in the cemetery will be listed by name and plot number, and will feature links to photos of their headstones, the individuals buried there, and information kept in the Archives, such as their eulogy or obituary. This project is the first joint venture by these three Edmonton Jewish organizations.

This project is based on raw data collected by former JAHSENA Board Member Cory Felber, who spent years cataloguing and photographing the cemetery and creating a database for researchers and family members seeking to visit their loved ones. The burial information is also available on JOWBR, the Jewish Online World Burial Registry, which can be found on [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org). However, it was Felber's idea to create an independent website for this particular cemetery, which is believed to be the first of its kind. The website will serve as a one-stop-shop for

researchers, family members and genealogists, full of information on Edmonton's Jewish citizens, with links to other sources which can be used to learn more about this vibrant Jewish community.

The website was designed by Kyle Huberman of Pixel Designs Edmonton. Kyle is a local community member and web designer based in the City. Debby Shoctor, Executive Director and Archivist of JAHSENA worked to put the website together along with Cory Felber and Chevra Kadisha member David Marcus. Says Shoctor, "This website will be a great tool for anyone interested in community history, or in researching their roots in the Jewish Community of Edmonton. We also hope it will prompt people to send in the eulogies and obituaries of their loved ones to be included on the website, and to donate material on them to our Archives."

The website will be updated annually, as new burials occur. Presently, there are about 30 new burials a year out at the cemetery, located on Edmonton's South side at 7622-101 Avenue. This July, JAHSENA also partnered with the Chevra Kadisha to conduct cemetery tours as part of the Doors Open Edmonton Festival. Both organizations hope that this becomes a regular event. Please check out the website at: [www.edmontonjewishcemetery.ca](http://www.edmontonjewishcemetery.ca), as well as the JAHSENA website at [www.jahsena.ca](http://www.jahsena.ca). If you have materials which you would like included on the website, or to donate to the Archives, please contact the JAHSENA office at: (780) 489-2809 or [jahsena@shaw.ca](mailto:jahsena@shaw.ca).

## In Memoriam 2012-13

*The following individuals were lost to us this year. We offer our condolences to their families and friends, and hope that their memories will be blessings to us all.*

Vera Allman, z'l  
Morley Bleviss, z'l  
Rhoda Cohen, z'l  
Abraham Klimov, z'l  
Gregory Frimark, z'l  
Riva Fuksman, z'l  
Clarice Garbuz, z'l  
Toby Garfin, z'l  
Harry Goldberg, z'l  
Fanny Hersch, z'l  
David Koliger, z'l  
Seema Leon, z'l  
Sofia Levin, z'l  
Samuel Sereth Lieberman, z'l  
Raja (Rose) Markus, z'l  
Ann Newman Minovitz, z'l  
Naphtali Nip Olyan, z'l  
Helen Miller Paull, z'l  
Sofia Perkis, z'l  
Allen M. Prepes, z'l  
Yuri Rozenfeld, z'l  
Anita (Hannah) Satanove, z'l  
Julia Satanove, z'l  
Rose Segal, z'l  
Etta Sheckter, z'l  
Suni Silverman, z'l  
Millie Singer, z'l  
Shelby Smordin, z'l  
Edna Snell, z'l  
Helen (Anna) Dashevsky Spevakow, z'l  
Judge Robert Spevakow, z'l  
Tobey Switzer, z'l  
Belinda Damelin Tankel, z'l  
Shirley Tarnow, z'l  
Arthur Ugodnikov, z'l  
Sabina Weizman, z'l



## From the Archivist's Desk,

by DEBBY SHOCTOR

Fall 2013

As I am sure you all know, it has been an extremely busy and successful year here at JAHSENA. Last Fall, we started work on a project, which I am sure you all heard about, the H.B. Kline Jewelry Store at Fort Edmonton Park. It all started with a phone call from Edmonton Journal Columnist Paula Simons a year before that, asking me why no one from JAHSENA was in attendance at the opening of the newly-replicated Capitol Theatre at Fort Edmonton Park. I vaguely knew that the Park was doing this, but nothing more. Neither I nor Jini, nor anyone else from the Jewish Community had received an invitation to this event. Both Paula and I thought this was strange, as the theatre had been built by a pair of American Jewish brothers, the Allens, who built some of the earliest movie houses all over Canada and the US, including the one here, originally named the Allen Theatre, and built in 1918. In addition, the Orchestra leader of the in-house orchestra, Abe Fratkin, was a member of our community. Abe conducted his Capitoliens during the showing of silent movies. He also owned a well-known music store in town and later went on to become the first conductor of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (see Heritage Vol. 10 No. 1, Fall 2007). On the left-hand side of the building, for many years, the Ostry family ran a tobacconist's shop, and on the right-hand side was the H. B. Kline Jewelry store.

To both Paula's and my dismay, no mention was made at the opening nor inside the theatre of any of this. The building's Jewish history had been completely neglected. We therefore took on a mission to rectify this. Paula wrote an article, telling

the story of the building's Jewish history and interviewing Ken Wasserman, H. B. Kline's great grandson, who still had many artifacts from the store in his basement. Both Ken and I contacted officials at the Park and complained about the situation, to no immediate avail.

To make a long story short, I recruited Ken to join the JAHSENA Board and, together with President Jini Vogel and later Vice President Judy Goldsand, we started meeting with Park officials and City officials in an attempt to get this situation fixed. After many meetings, thanks in large part to the interest and efforts of our Mayor, Stephen Mandel, we managed to get the City to strike a committee to deal with the problem and build the H. B. Kline store. We applied for grants and conducted a fundraising campaign, hired a contractor and worked with the City Artifacts Centre, and finally by this May long weekend, the project was completed. We had raised over \$60,000 towards this project, and outfitted and furnished the store almost exactly according to historic specifications. The grand opening was held on July 9, 2013 and was attended by over 200 community members! It was a great day for our community.

I would like to thank all those who participated in making this store a real-

ity, a place where the story of our fabulous community will be told to the thousands of visitors who go to the Park every Summer. Thanks especially to all of our donors, including the EJCCF, Edmonton UJA and the Dianne and Irving Kipnes Foundation. Thanks to Ken Wasserman, Jini Vogel, Judy Goldsand and the Board of JAHSENA, to Russ Joseph of Federation who found our wonderful contractor, Mark McFarlane of Goldwing Construction, to all the Park Staff, especially Historian Janne Switzer, and to all the City of Edmonton Staff who helped, especially Mayor Stephen Mandel.

This, however, was not the only major project JAHSENA undertook this year. We worked with the Chevra Kadisha and

with website designer Kyle Huberman of Pixel Designs to create a website for the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery, which we launched this August. It was former Board Member Cory Felber's idea to create a website based on the photographs she had taken of the tombstones at the Cemetery, and to use the Eulogies and Obituaries and photos in our collection to make a website which is a true memorial and testament for all the

wonderful people in our community who have passed on. The burial information has been available through JOWBR, on the [jewishgen.org](http://jewishgen.org) website for a few years now, but this new website, [www.edmontonjewishcemetery.ca](http://www.edmontonjewishcemetery.ca), will have even more information on it.

We undertook another joint venture with the Chevra Kadisha this year as well, in offering tours of the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery to the public during the annual Edmonton and District Historical Society Doors Open Edmonton Festival, which takes place every July. In the past, we had



From "Chop Suey on the Prairies."

shown our documentaries and had a tour of our offices, but this year we decided to try something different, and it was a rousing success. We had two tours, attended by over 35 people, conducted by David Marcus of the Chevra Kadisha and myself, and they were very well-received. Please see the photos on pg. 16

I also attended the Association of Canadian Archivists Conference in Winnipeg in June of this year, and presented a joint paper on Jewish Archives in Canada along with two of my colleagues in the Association of Canadian Jewish Archives and Museums (ACJAM), new Ontario Jewish Archives Director Dara Solomon, and Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee Archivist Janice Rosen. Our session was well-received by the attendees. I will be presenting the same talk to the Catholic Archivists Association Conference in St. Albert this October on my own.

I also gave a talk on JAHSENA, our collections and activities both to the members of Temple Beth Ora, and to the members of Na'amat this year, both of which were very successful. Our collections have been featured in last year's and this year's Archives Society of Alberta Calendars, which are available for purchase from our office. The new Archives Week Exhibit on the ASA website, "Fashion in the Archives" will be up on the website at [www.archivesalberta.org](http://www.archivesalberta.org) for the first week in October. It will feature five photos from our collection, and they have chosen one of our photos to feature on their new website.

The next project we will undertake will be to again employ the services of Kyle Huberman of Pixel designs to re-do our website so that it is up to current standards, and we can include our movies and videos, as well as excerpts from our Oral History collections on the web. We have again received grants from the Edmonton Jewish Charitable Foundation and Edmonton UJA for this project.

Working with other organizations is always beneficial, and I am pleased to report that Jewish sites and history will shortly

be included on the Edmonton Heritage Council's Heritage Map of Edmonton, which can be found on their website, [www.edmontonheritag.ca](http://www.edmontonheritag.ca). There is a bit on there right now, but soon there will be articles on many Jewish sites in Edmonton. This year's AGM Keynote speaker Lawrence Herzog, a former Edmontonian who writes about Heritage Buildings, is also a featured columnist on that site.

In the meantime, interest in Edmonton's Jewish Community continues to increase. One of our photos was included in the Provincial Archives of Alberta exhibit, "Chop Suey on the Prairies." This photo features Edmonton Eskimos founder Moe Lieberman and player, later Lieutenant Governor Norman Kwong. Edmonton Journal Columnist Paula Simons produced a one-hour documentary for CBC radio on Morris "Two-Gun" Cohen, an Edmonton real estate speculator and bodyguard for

Sun-Yat Sen. It can be heard at <http://www.cbc.ca/ideas/episodes/2013/09/05/the-intermittently-true-adventures-of-moishetwo-gun-cohen/>.

I am also happy to announce my first academic publication, a chapter in a book edited by McGill University Professor Ira Robinson entitled "Canada's Jews in Time and Space." I wrote the chapter on Jews in Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Yukon. A copy is available in the Archives for study, or can be purchased on [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca). In addition, I will be joining the Premier's Council on Arts and Culture, which will advise the Premier on matters of Arts and Culture in Alberta.

This coming year proves to be as jam-packed as last, so hold on to your hats, you never know what is coming round the corner!

Debby Shoctor  
Archivist



JAHSENA Archivist Debby Shoctor meets with Joseph Patrouch, head of the Wirth Institute at the University of Alberta, and visiting Austrian professors Dr. Helga Mitterbauer and Dr. Andrea Strutz. Dr. Strutz was in town to give a talk and do research on Austrian Jewish internees in Canada during World War II. Photo by Daniel Larson.

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**INDIVIDUAL**

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. Membership includes a subscription to our publication, Heritage/Yerusha. Fees cover uniform membership year from October 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Donations are tax deductible. We thank the above listed people for their support in the past year.

## 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 times a year.

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

- Benefactor \$50  
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 I am interested in serving as a volunteer.  
 I have historical material that I would like to donate. - Please call me.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR*Continued from page 2*

you, other members provided further details of Alex's last mission.

These people will always ensure that these heroes are honoured and never forgotten, there are some members who have many stats and records, and these are added to the human story to fill it in further.

There is a lady with the RAF who will source how I can get some poppies for November to bring to the boys in Prague. I have just one from my last trip back home to Vancouver in November.

Since your Uncle's cemetery is very close to where my parents in law are buried, we will be stopping in to visit him often.

Coincidentally, we were visiting Prague ( for my first time) in July and August 1984 also, with my father and sister, it was my husband's first time back since escaping in 1968. At that time, neither us of ever imagined we would eventually be living there full time years later.

You and your wife were adventurous, camping there back then. Throughout visits in the '80s we ran into very few western tourists, most being too paranoid to head to the intimidating communist controlled countries.

We had a number of adventures with the secret police during those days.

Sometimes maybe we can compare the "then" versus now notes on Prague.

Currently we are soaking up much needed sun in Tuscany ( after more difficult floods this early summer).

I was following the Calgary situation before leaving, especially south in High River where my father last lived in Alberta. The weather was crazy everywhere this year.



Alex Podolsky, ca. 1942 JAHSENA Archives photo.



Grave of Alex Podolsky, Prague War Cemetery. Paull photo.

A book that is with me, on my iPad for my reading list is written by one of those whose posts I also follow on FB , a fellow Canuck Marc Stevens, it is called *Escape, Evasion and Revenge* about his father, a German Jewish pilot who escaped Germany, joined the RAF as a bomber pilot, flew bombing missions to Berlin, was shot down and became a prisoner in Stalag 3 where aircrew were held, and managed to keep his true identity a secret all the while masquerading as a British pilot who spoke fluent German, a fascinating story.

Now we are enjoying our annual sojourn to our favourite area in the Casentino Valley, off the tourist radar, but still close enough to do some great day trips such as to Firenze, Cortona, Montalcino, Montepulciano, Arezzo, etc. it's a beautiful area and we have been coming for years.

I hope your summer is wonderful wherever you spend it.

If you or your Dad have any other stories or details about Alex you would like to share on the sites, I would be happy to post them.

Best regards,  
Sharon Christensen

**DONATION CARDS**

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

**MAZEL TOV**

To Dr. Jacob Masliyah, on receiving an Honourary Doctorate from the University of Alberta, from the Board of JAHSENA.

To David and Florie Axler, on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, from the Board of JAHSENA.

To Elexis Schloss on receiving the Order of Canada, from Eric & Sharon Macklin & Family and from the Board of JAHSENA.

To Ron Wolch on his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, from the Board of JAHSENA.

**SYMPATHY**

To Ram Romanovsky, on the death of his brothers, Leon, z'l, and Phillip, z'l from the Board of JAHSENA.

**REFUAH SHALEMAH**

To Claudia Kertzer, from the Board of JAHSENA.

**JAHSENA AGM**

October 24<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm  
Beth Shalom Synagogue

Guest Speaker  
Lawrence Herzog

**NEW MEMBERS**

JAHSENA would like to welcome the following new members:

Rick & Nikki Vogel, Edmonton, Alberta  
Elwood Johnson, Edmonton, Alberta  
Ann Davis Sector, Edmonton, Alberta

# Dr. Theodore Herschel Aaron: *My Life in Medicine*

By Dr T.H. AARON, B.Sc. M.D. F.R.C.P. ©  
F.A.C.P. F.C.S.A.C.I. F.A.C.C.P. F.A.A.A.I. CM

*Dr. Aaron is an eminent Edmonton-born Jewish physician, whose father, Abraham Aaron, was in the Fur trade here at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Dr. Aaron assembled this autobiography based on his C.V., for JAHSENA. It is our hope that other members of our community will do the same to spread the word about what an amazing and diverse community we have. This article has been edited for publication. The complete text is available in the Archives.*

I was born in Edmonton Alberta on May 4, 1918 and educated in Edmonton at McDougall, Oliver, Westmount and Victoria schools. I was encouraged by our next-door neighbor, Dr. J.O. Baker who founded the Baker Clinic, to take my medical degree at the University of Alberta and received a B.Sc. and then M.D. in 1942.

My internship was at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton. I was the first to administer penicillin in Alberta. It was obtained from Ottawa for a doctor's son and given by I.V. drip. In order to reuse it for other patients and having chemical training, I extracted penicillin from the patients' urine. I used it on other patients locally with excellent results.

My medical curiosity was initiated during a preceptorship in Internal Medicine with Dr. F.H. Sprague, a professor in medicine who practiced at the Baker Clinic.

## INNOVATION

I was the first to do RH blood-typing in Canada with typing serum received from Dr.



Dr. Ted Aaron, U of A photo.

Philip Levine in the U.S. I co-authored an article on the first case of childhood Crohn's disease presenting with fever and joint pain which was used by Dr. Crohn in his book (AM.J.Dig.Dis.1944.) While working at Mt. Sinai Hospital, I was asked by Dr. Crohn to work with him on bowel immunology.

Following the publication of a paper on allergic rhinitis, I became interested in allergy and decided to go to the United States to study. There was no Canadian Society of Allergy at that time, nor trained allergists. Dr. Detweiler of Toronto, Dr. Charles Walton of Winnipeg and others formed the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology of which I am the last surviving founding member. Post Graduate Studies were continued in the United States.

My allergy training started in New York City at the Roosevelt Hospital (Columbia University) under Dr. Robert Cooke in 1946. He was a renowned allergist, one of the founders of the American Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology as well as the American College of Physicians. He also trained John Fitzgerald of Toronto and Sam Friedman of Montreal, who later became Dean of Medicine of McGill.

From there I went to Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City (Columbia University) as an Associate in Bacteriology to the renowned Dr. Gregory Schwartzman,

as well as to Dr. H. Abramson (Physiology, Columbia) and Dr. S. Peck (Dermatology, Columbia).

In 1947 I was a Resident in Allergy and Medicine as well as a Teaching and Research Fellow of the University of Pittsburgh under the eminent allergist Dr. Leo Crip. I worked in the University Clinic, Veteran Clinics, taught medical students and dermatology residents and was in charge of the Allergy extract preparation for the University, the American Armed Forces and the Veteran's Administration.

From a clinical study I did, I found that the antihistamines decreased cold symptoms such as itching, sneezing, and stuffiness. A later study was done at a US prison using controls. Today antihistamines are found in most cold remedies. If I had patented the idea, the monetary reward would have been huge, but instead it all went to the company and not to students who did the research.

In 1948, I was a resident physician in the Pulmonary Division of the Montefiore Hospital of New York City which was then part of Columbia University, now the Albert Einstein. It has two Nobel Prizes to its credit. The head of Pulmonary at that time was Max Pinner, the editor of the American Review of Tuberculosis. This was arranged for me by the famed Burns Amberson.

At the end of the year, in 1949 and 1950, I became a Fellow in Medicine at the Lahey Clinic in Boston. I was later asked to be the allergy consultant at the Clinic and also the University of Pittsburgh, but instead returned to Edmonton. Since returning to Edmonton I have had numerous requests to take appointments notably at the Universities of Pittsburgh and Stanford.

I returned to Edmonton as one of the first trained allergists in Canada and the first trained allergist in western Canada. Initially I practiced at the Baker Clinic as an allergy specialist. I made up many of the allergy extracts and trained nurses to be allergy technicians. I was later joined by another allergist, Dr. E. L. C. Muttitt. I had appointments with the Royal Alexandra, the University, Misericordia and General

Hospitals. I received an appointment at the University of Alberta in 1950 as a Clinical Professor of Medicine and have been associated with the U of A since then.

I have been seeing patients from three western provinces and even an occasional American. We trained nurses to do skin tests and patch tests and give allergy injections. We had a sterile room for preparing vaccine prescriptions, making up special vaccines and taking care of emergency cases. We were also able to do passive transfer studies.

The polio epidemic of 1953 interrupted my practice. I volunteered, as I was trained in pulmonary practice. I worked at the Royal Alexandra Hospital (Isolation), along with Drs. Taylor, Elliott, Nix and others. After the epidemic was over, the respiratory polio patients were moved to the University Hospital. They were looked after by me and Drs. Elliott, Dvorkin, and Fraser. Drs. Fraser, Dvorkin and I went to Minneapolis to get information on rehabilitation.

I have had a lifelong friendship with my patient, Gary McPherson, who I first saw when he was nine and who has done much for the handicapped. I have been included in their polio reunions and helped with the polio exhibit at the Royal Alberta Museum.

An Allergy Clinic was needed for teaching, patient care and consultations so I established it in the Out-Patient Department with funds arranged by Dr. Don Wilson and Dr. Bernard Snell. I trained a nurse to do skin testing, make up allergy extracts and give allergy injections. Weekly clinics were well attended by patients, students and interns. The clinic disbanded as did others after Medicare came into being.

#### **TEACHING ALLERGY AT THE UNIVERSITY**

Until recently, I have done bedside teaching and held discussions on allergy especially at the Royal Alexandra Hospital on a weekly basis. For many years I gave annual lectures on allergy. Students and interns have had electives in my office, spending one to two weeks. One student from South Africa spent close to two months.

I supervised students with summer research projects in allergy and obtained funding from the American Allergy Foundation for two students. Each presented their project results at the Annual Student Research Day.

I have participated in Continuing Medical Education for many years. This has taken many forms: lecturing for various courses in Edmonton at the U of A, in various hospitals, lecturing for the U of A and the Alberta Medical Association in towns and cities in the province and recently lecturing for lay medical groups such as the Alberta Lung Association, Allergy Information, Thyroid Association as well as various service clubs and groups such as the Beekeepers' Association. I have also made numerous appearances on radio and TV for lectures, talk shows and for medical current events.

I initiated and chaired the first American College of Physicians (ACP) course at the Banff School of Fine Arts in June 1965. It was a huge success and for years the University held ACP courses in Banff.

#### **GUEST LECTURES AT OTHER UNIVERSITIES**

I was a guest lecturer at the University of Mexico on more than one occasion and was made an Honorary Fellow of the Pan American Allergy Society. I was an invited guest lecturer for the University of Pittsburgh Medical School Centennial Celebration and, while there, taught at the Children's hospital.

For all of my practice years I have been a resource person in the province to doctors, medical associations, nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, news media, lawyers, environmentalists, chemists, etc. for allergy information.

#### **TEACHING IN OTHER FACULTIES**

I taught ACP courses at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Pittsburgh. At the Faculty of Pharmacy, I have given lectures to final year pharmacy students on allergy and especially drug allergies. For continuing pharmacy educa-

tion I have travelled to other areas (e.g. the University of Lethbridge) to lecture to pharmacists. I have acted as a resource person for graduate pharmacy students at the University of Alberta as well as being a preceptor for training clinical pharmacists at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. I served on the pharmacy committee for 25 years at that hospital, and also served as representative of the medical association on the Alberta Drug Review and Utilization Group. I assisted with a PhD program in pharmacy and was an examiner for PhD exams. I initiated compulsory reporting by hospitals of adverse drug reactions to Health and Welfare Canada.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

I have served as Board President of Alberta Ballet, Board member of the Edmonton Symphony Society, volunteer as well Board member of Theatre Three (Phoenix Theatre), Board member of the Boy Scout Association, President of the Council of Christians and Jews, Board member of Beth Shalom Synagogue, and member of the EPCOR ad hoc committee dealing with community utilization of power plants in Rosedale Flats.

#### **HONOURS**

In 1988 I was appointed an Honorary Member of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, now the Alberta College of Pharmacists. I was appointed Senior Life Member of the Canadian Medical Association, the Alberta Medical Association and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta. I was one of 100 Awardees recognized as Alberta Physicians of the Century and won the Alberta Pharmacy Centennial Award of Distinction (only person to receive both above awards). I was also awarded the Alberta Centennial Medal and the College of Physicians of Alberta Meritorious Service Award 2002, and was given the Alberta Medical Association Service Award for service to the Association and the Medical Profession in 2004, and the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Certificate of Meritorious Service as a Founding Member on their 20th anniversary.

# Cemetery Tour



This July, JAHSENA again participated in the Doors Open Edmonton Festival, an annual event put on by the Edmonton and District Historical Society. Instead of a tour of our Archives. We opted to team up with the Chevra Kadisha and offer tours of the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery. These tours were very well-received, and about 35 people participated, including some members from our own community. Thanks to David Marcus of the Chevra Kadisha for conducting the tours. We hope next year to have a tour of one of our major synagogues.



Clockwise from top left: Debby Shoctor shows the participants the Cemetery Map, David Marcus shows the Olyan monument, largest in Alberta, participants on the tour, David and Debby welcome participants, David at the Cenotaph.