

ירשה

Heritage – Yerusha
Fall 2012
Elul 5772
VOLUME 15, NO. 1
www.jahsena.ca



HERITAGE

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

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Hold the date:
Thursday,
Nov. 22nd AGM:
The Lost
Jews of
Pine Lake

BBYO 1957

BBYO group from Western Canada at the
District BBYO convention in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin.



Back row, left to right: Allen Bell (Edmonton), Elliott Gelfand (Calgary), Janice Smith (Calgary), David Singer (Saskatoon), Roz Gibbs (Medicine Hat), Mitchell Gropper (Saskatoon).

Middle row: Corinne Nitikman (Saskatoon), Alvin Shapiro (Regina), Dolly Shragge (Regina), Shim Fialkow (Edmonton).

Front row: Esther Segal (Edmonton), Noel Jampolsky (Regina), Donna Krolik (Saskatoon), Trudy Singer Pekarsky (Edmonton).



From the Archivist's Desk...

by DEBBY SHOCTOR

Fall 2012

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer vacation. While you have been busy lying in the sun, canoeing, sailing, cottage-going and what have you, I have been busy packing. Yes, for the first time in its history, our Archives has moved. For some of you, who have experienced this situation, I feel sympathy pains as you roll your eyes and groan. For the rest of you, I can only warn you about what upheaval this brings.

At first, I thought, "No big deal, everything is already in boxes." Well, MOST things are in boxes, but what about all the files that have to be put in boxes, the large format items in map cabinets that have to be put into folders or rolled and then put in boxes? What about all the framed items you never got to that have to be un-framed, all the plaques that have to be disassembled? Then there are all the books, video tapes, DVDs, etc. that are loose and have to be boxed. Have you ever tried to pack 5000 books so that you can unpack them in the correct order? I started weeding the collection about four months ago, leaving items on a table labelled "Free Books to Good Homes," and miraculously, most of them disappeared. But that was counterbalanced by the people who continued to bring me more books and more items for the archives. Normally, I would be thrilled by this, but when you are packing to move out, donations are an unwelcome visitor.

We actually received a very important donation a couple of weeks ago from a prominent member of the community who was going into a senior's residence. I couldn't refuse this

donation even though I had to drop everything I was doing and rush over there to help the family sort through it, box it up, and put it in my car to take back to the archives, then process it. And I am glad I didn't – it was an invaluable collection which will be the highlight of this year's donations, but it certainly threw a wrench into my packing.

Another problem with moving is that you keep getting reference questions and inquiries, even though you have packed everything in boxes. Then you have to go looking for things which were formerly easily accessible, and now are packed away. It is a very difficult decision to make whether to go looking for something for a patron who desperately needs it, or to simply tell them, sorry, we are moving, so I can't help you for at least a month, maybe more. It goes against the principal of being a reference archivist and trying to help people, but unfortunately, sometimes you just have to bite the bullet and say no.

The processes of sorting and weeding have also brought to light some undiscovered treasures of the collection. People always say, "How can you discover things in an Archives, everything should be catalogued?" Yes, things are catalogued, but not down to the item level (at least in this one), and it sometimes takes a thorough house-cleaning to find them. For example, our student, David, while packing, discovered some very rare books in our collection, because he is naturally curious, and started looking them up on the internet. We have now separated almost 100 books which are over a century old and very rare from the bulk of the collection, and I will take

special care in housing them in our new location. I have put them in a glass-doored cabinet, and our conservationist, Claudia, is repairing and protecting them. In addition, I found an autographed program from an Edmonton Flyers vs. Detroit Redwings game in Edmonton in 1958, signed by every player on both teams, including Gordie Howe and Red Kelly! One of my co-workers happened to walk into my office at the time and offered me \$1000 on the spot for it. Of course I refused, and ferreted it away in its fonds again, but at least I know it is there.

That's another point – although we have all sorts of sophisticated finding aids and cataloguing systems, a lot of the knowledge of an Archivist is physical, spatial and temporal. I have a mental filing cabinet where I keep a map of my collection and intuitively "know" where things are without looking them up. When we move, this will all change. It will probably take me a year or more to adapt to our new surroundings to the point where I instinctually know where things are again. And here's the clincher: our new space is only temporary – in two or three years, I will be doing this all over again!

So enjoy your Fall, but please think of me schlepping boxes and cutting packing tape, hooking up computers and labelling lids, taking shelves apart and putting them back together—I even survived having three glass shelves come crashing down on me! Thank you so much to everyone who helped with the move, including our President, Jini Vogel, summer student David Friedland, and of course Federation CEO Russ Joseph and staff members Joe Blondin, Joey Tappenden and Daniel Larson – we couldn't have done it without you! To see the results of this effort, please come and visit us at our new home: 10220-156 St, Suite 200. I think you will be pleasantly surprised!

Debby Shoctor
Archivist and Chief Schlepper

ירשה HERITAGE

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PageMaster

MAILING ADDRESS

JAHSENA,

10220-156 St. Suite 200,

Edmonton, Alberta, T5P 2R1

Telephone: (780) 489-2809

Fax: (780) 481-1854

Email: jahsena@shaw.ca

Website: www.jahsena.ca.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PROFILE: Miller

This neighborhood was inadvertently left out of the last issue of Heritage, which described streets and neighborhoods in the City named after prominent Jewish Edmontonians.

This neighbourhood was named after Abe William Miller (1897-1964), a Hungarian-born lawyer, politician and community volunteer. He immigrated to Canada in 1899 with his parents, Oseas and Goldie Tilleman Muhlstock (later Miller). One of four siblings, including Jenny, Louis and Jack, Miller moved to Edmonton in 1914 to attend Alberta College, and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1925. He was the youngest lawyer of his day to be appointed King's Council. Miller practiced law for forty years, served as a member of City Council for six years and served two years as a member of the Alberta Legislature. He married Rebecca Griesdorf and they had three children, Justice Tevie Miller, City Councillor Helen Paull, and Leon Miller. His descendants, including the Miller, Dolgoy, Shadlyn and Paull families, still live in Edmonton.

The Miller neighbourhood is located within the Casselman-Heights District Outline Plan area between the Casselman neighbourhood to the west and the Ebbers neighbourhood to the east. Manning Drive runs the length of the neighbourhood's eastern boundary and 50th Street runs the length of its western boundary, providing residents with excellent access to other parts of the city. The nearby Clareview Light Rail

Transit (LRT) station also provides residents with good transit access.

Prior to urban development, Miller was under agricultural land use designation with a small portion of the area actively cultivated. Two pipeline rights-of way cross the neighbourhood in the north, and their surfaces have been integrated with the pedestrian transportation network of the community. The school and park site located in the west-central area of the neighbourhood provides a large open space for residents. Additionally, a one-hectare naturalized wetland park provides natural amenity space and a community focal point.

The neighbourhood began developing in the late 1990s and experienced the majority of its development during the early 2000s. The design objective for the Miller neighbourhood was to create a residential community that provides a variety of housing opportunities and to cluster non-residential land uses in the southern portion of the neighbourhood. Dwelling units within the neighbourhood consist of single detached, semi-detached, linked row housing, stacked row housing, and low rise apartments.



Abe Miller,
JAHSENA Archives photo.

DONATION CARDS

JAHSENA 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:

SYMPATHY

To Phil Lister, on the passing of his Aunt, Shaino Stitz, z'l, from the Board of JAHSENA.

To Dr. Merrill Distad, on the passing of his wife, Linda Distad, from Debby & Marshall Shoctor.

To Janet Pollack and family, on the death of Norm Pollack, z'l, from the Board of JAHSENA and Debby & Marshall Shoctor.

To Marshall and Sharon Hundert, on the death of Murray Hundert, from the Board of JAHSENA.

To the Rubin family, condolences on the death of Hilda Rubin, z'l, from the Board of JAHSENA, and from Kayla Shoctor.

MAZEL TOV

To Gillian and Billy Horwitz on the birth of their grandson Troy, from Debby & Marshall Shoctor.

In Memoriam 2011-12

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.

Jacob Babad, z'l	Gerald Gall, z'l	Zelda Kalensky, z'l	Norman Pollock, z'l	Eleanor Teitelbaum-
Dr. Manfred Beck, z'l	Joe Goldfeder, z'l	Jack Katz, z'l	Hilda Rubin, z'l	Munan, z'l
Leia Beltsur, z'l	Dr. Leslie Green, z'l	Yakov Khasin, z'l	Rose Schayer, z'l	Dr. Joel Wilbush, z'l
Sarah Bercovich, z'l	Zisa Grimblatt, z'l	Joel Klein, z'l	Lil Segal, z'l	Gertrude Zack, z'l
Rakhil Broide, z'l	Gordon Grosh, z'l	Hy Liebowitz, z'l	Tevie Sheldon Segal, z'l	Dasha Zottenberg, z'l
Joel Cooper, z'l	Murray Hundert, z'l	Evelyn Miller, z'l	Saul Sheinin, z'l	
Dorothy Elizabeth	Sarah Kagan, z'l	Anne Nelson, z'l	Ed Snyder, z'l	
Feldman, z'l	Susan Klein, z'l	Maurice Pechet, z'l	Esme Sperber, z'l	
Sonya Fridburg, z'l	Alex Kletter, z'l	Karen Pipke, z'l	Richard Tapper, z'l	

Grabbing the Reins

Horse Owners, Riders, Lovers and Jumpers in Edmonton's Jewish Community

By PAULA E. KIRMAN

A significant number of people in Edmonton's Jewish community, both past and present, have owned horses, spent a lot of time at the track, or even been involved in the prestigious world of show jumping. Here are profiles of some of the most significant folks who have been "horsing" around.

JACK SHECKTER

Jack Sheckter was one of the biggest names in horse ownership not only in the Jewish community, but in general in Alberta.

"Jack was to my knowledge, the only Jewish fellow in Alberta to own a chuckwagon," says brother Frank Sheckter. "It



Chuckwagon saddle, supplied photo.

was the 'Jack Sheckter Chuckwagon.' On the side of them in those days you could not put any advertising, so they had the name of the owners on the side of the wagon."

Sheckter neither rode nor drove his chuckwagon. "He had a close friend named Tommy Dorchester who drove his wagon in the chuckwagon races and he actually won the Canadian championships in 1970," Frank explains. "In those days they did not get the big prizes they get today. The winner got a beautifully hand-tooled saddle with a silver plaque on it and stamped on it was the year and the race."

Sheckter was a businessman with interests in both land and car sales. How did his life-long love of horses begin? His brother speculates. "I'm just guessing, but my father had horses to pull the bread wagons and when Jack was 11 or 12 years old he used to drive the bread wagons and he got started with horses way back then.

"He told me a story when I was putting on my son's Bar Mitzvah. He said, 'You know, when I had my Bar Mitzvah I drove the horse to Beth Israel Synagogue (which at that time was on 95th Street at the top of Grierson Hill). I tied the horse up in the back lane behind the shul, went in, said my Maftir, had a piece of herring, got back on the wagon, and finished delivering bread.' Bar Mitzvahs have come a long way since then!"



Lauren Meloff Sky jumping, supplied photo.

Sheckter's racing stable was named Alaskan Stables, located on the east side of Edmonton. His choice of name was in keeping with the fact he had previously purchased a hotel in Edmonton called the Alaskan. "He had a tremendous number of thoroughbreds in that stable, and he bred horses. Jack won the Canadian Derby in 1972 with a horse he had bred named Klondike Prince. He went on to win a lot of the other big races here like the Journal Handicap, and he sold a bunch of horses to the Korean government and still had 40-50 more at the farm," says Frank. After the Korean War, the country's number of horses had been severely depleted, so they turned elsewhere to get more.

"He also had show horses and his prize show horse was originally from Germany named Bourbon von Firefly," says Frank. "He used to show it at the big horse show in Calgary and then they came to him and said, 'We have a problem. There is no horse in this part of the country



Canadian Derby Winner Klondike Prince, supplied photo.



Bory Margolus, JAHSENA Archives photo.

that compares to this one and there is a lot of reluctance by owners to waste time putting theirs in the show because yours is automatically above them.' So, instead of showing it, they just had his trainer show it between events. It was in a class of its own."

Besides the thoroughbred stable he also had a standard breed stable, the horses of which pulled "buggies" - two-wheelers where the jockey sits behind the horse.

Jack continued his farm until he became ill and passed away in the 1990s. The horses were sold at auction by his widow.

DAVID MARGOLUS

The attorney with Witten LLP owned horses in the '80s, including a minor stakes winner who ran, but finished poorly, in both the Canadian Derby and the Manitoba

Derby. "I also owned a couple of horses as recently as last year and the previous year just as an homage to my family's past involvement in horse racing," he says.

The main family involvement of which Margolus speaks concerns his uncle, Bory Margolus, who passed away in the '90s. "His was the top racing stable in Alberta for many years," says Margolus. "His horses would have won a couple of hundred races, at a minimum I would think, including many stakes races. He was also the leading thoroughbred breeder in Alberta for many years and won the Eclipse award as top Breeder in Canada one year."

MITCH KLIMOVE, BORY MARGOLUS, AND EUGENE PECHET

Businessman Mitch Klimove was a partner with Bory Margolus (previously mentioned in this article in relation to his nephew David), who owned Elmbrook Farms. Together, they owned around 10 horses. One won the Alberta Derby when it was held in Calgary in the '80s. Another Elmbrook Farms horse won the Canadian Derby.

After Elmbrook Farms dissolved, Bory wanted to go into breeding, and Klimove got him a stallion from Kentucky but that horse wasn't a success. "Then, he got a stallion in Ontario which became a very successful stallion for him in his breeding operation," says Klimove. "He became very



Mitch Klimove, supplied photo.

successful and he won some very big races with the horses that he bred."

Klimove also partnered with Eugene Pechet, owning horses in the '70s. They won races, but nothing ever big. "Eugene really enjoyed it. He never really gambled. He just enjoyed it." Pechet and his daughter Lynn had racehorses in the late 1960s and '70s, the Haden Horses (Haden's Electric, Haden's Secret).

On his own, Klimove has owned horses since 1947, when he was still in University. 2012 is the first year he has not owned a horse, but still goes to the races for enjoyment. "It's entertainment for me - the people, the camaraderie, seeing your old friends," he says.

He has some advice for anyone who wants to get into horse racing. "Horse racing is not a very profitable thing. You do it for enjoyment. If people go into horse racing with the idea of making money, I think it's the wrong attitude."

NORMAN SCHAYER

Businessman Norm Schayer has had a long history of owning horses. "I became involved for the first time when I was working for a gentleman in Calgary by the name of Max Shulder, who owned a company called Ace Salvage. Max owned a stable of horses called Ace Stables," says Schayer.

"Max would take me to the races and I really got involved with it. Eventually, when I started to work for him on a part time



Mitch Klimove and Bory Margolus with horse. JAHSENA Archives photo.

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GRABBING THE REINS

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Norm and Evelyn Schayer,
JAHSENA Archives photo.

basis when I was 18, we would get together early in the morning and before we would go to work, we would head off to the race track to watch the horses working out.”

Schayer continued his involvement with horses after moving to Edmonton. “I got married in 1974 (to Evelyn Lieberman) and we moved to Edmonton the following year. I met a gentleman by the name of Jim Elliot, and we bought a horse named Hatcher. From then on we must have owned in partnership in excess of 100 horses, many of which have won handicap races, as well as participated in the Canadian Derby.

He recalls a funny story from that Canadian Derby. “The day we ran Opening Remark in the Canadian Derby, there was a horse in that race called Josh’s Hero. Josh’s Hero won that race and everyone came to congratulate me because they thought it was my horse. My youngest son’s name is Josh and they thought I named it after him! It was nice, but I just had to tell them that it wasn’t my horse.”

Another name mix-up at a different time yielded equally funny results. “There was one incident where I was talking to my friend Tony and we were standing in line at the betting window. In front of me was Dr. Sam Marcushamer. Sam turned



Norm Schayer and his horse.

to Tony and asked, ‘Are you betting in Hollywood, Tony?’ So Sam turned around to me and asked, ‘Hollywood Tony – where is he running?’ Tony and I started laughing, and I had to explain he was not a horse. Next time we bought a yearling, we named it Hollywood Tony!”

Schayer has also incorporated horses into his philanthropic endeavours. “I used to have friends who had a son who was a juvenile diabetic. We would try to raise funds at the races and we would have a day at the races where we would invite people and have a silent auction. We would raise \$20,000 at this event,” he says.

Schayer finds the experience of owning horses quite enjoyable and has made a lot of friendships through his horse ownership. “Our horses travel from Edmonton to Vancouver to San Francisco to Los Angeles and in the wintertime we have them in Tampa Bay. It’s really been a wonderful experience. It’s a family thing – my kids love it. When they were young I used to take them to the barns to feed the horses carrots.”

Schayer still owns around 10-12 horses and had a horse come in fifth at the Canadian Derby on August 25th this year.

JODY SCHLOSS

In the Dressage Arena, Jody Schloss is probably the most accomplished equestrian rider from the local Jewish community. A para-equestrian, the 38-year-old was part of the Canadian team competing in dressage at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, England from August 29-September 9. Dressage, often described as ballet on a horse, is the only equestrian discipline included in the Paralympics. Para-equestrian sport provides riders with a physical disability the opportunity to compete against other riders with similar abilities. In the competition, she and her horse, Inspector Rebus, who have been partners since 2011, performed three dressage tests in front of a panel of international judges, one for a chance at an individual medal, one for the team score and one set to music, called freestyle.



Jody Schloss with her horse, Inspector Rebus,
supplied photo.

Schloss is originally from Edmonton but now lives in Ontario. Her mother, Gail, was the daughter of Hy Baltzan of the pioneer Baltzan family and Celia Aaron of the pioneer Aaron family. Her father, Barry, is a long-time resident of Edmonton and is the son of Central Alberta Jewish pioneers from Camrose, Al and Ann Schloss.

While travelling in the United States during university, a car crash killed her best friend and put her in a coma for five months. She had amnesia for six months, had to undergo physical rehabilitation for two years, and lost her ability to walk. When she started to ride again with CARD, a horse-riding facility for disabled persons in Toronto, her rehabilitation accelerated rapidly.

Jody started riding horses at the Whitemud Equine Centre in Edmonton when she was 11, and she now trains every day. To be closer to her horse stables in Ottawa and to live in a wheelchair accessible residence, Schloss moved into a



Jody Schloss with friends and family,
supplied photo.

retirement home where she has befriended the other residents, most of whom are twice her age. She also finished her post-secondary education in the years since her accident. She was able to get out of her wheelchair and slowly walk across the stage at UBC's Chan Centre with a walker, her brother Michael beside her as 'backup just in case.' It brought the house down and they cheered the whole time," says aunt Sondra Schloss. She is currently half-way through a Master's degree in Disability Studies at York University.

CAROLYN RUSSELL



Carolyn (White) Russell has both owned and shown horses. Now living in Florida where she works in real estate, she got involved with riding and showing horses as a child. "My father had a very good friend

who was an outstanding horseman and he taught us both to ride. I was just over four years old at the time," she says. "My father bought a farm and horses for us and I started showing horses and won my first horse show at the age of 6 years old. Later when we used to visit Florida in the winter when I was 11, he bought a racehorse, but it was just a cheap claimer who later became one of our jumping horses. This was while our home was in Windsor Ontario."

Russell and her family moved to Edmonton, where she eventually owned



Musical Romance, supplied photo.

a stable with her father. "When we lived in Edmonton, my father, Harvey White, joined a friend (Connie Stavropoulos – who owned the Downstairs restaurant at the original Citadel Theatre) and they claimed a horse named Dobbinton and ran her under the name of Tripoli Stables. They claimed her as a two-year-old in 1968 for \$2500 and she never ran in a claiming race again. She did so well that they couldn't fill the filly races and she started running against the males and was beating the males in sprint races at seven furlongs. In 1969 they ran under the stable name of Harcon Stables. We later separated with Harcon Stables and I became my father's partner as we purchased other horses and built our stable," she says

The horse named Dobbington was a contender in the Canadian Derby in 1969, although she did poorly. "Dobbington was considered our Derby contender in 1969 and along with everyone else we thought she could also run that distance. As things turned out, she was not a distance runner and did not finish well in the Alberta or Canadian Derby. Her career went on as a sprinter, and we took her east to run in Toronto, Montreal, and Fort Erie and she did well and won races against the male horses but only sprint races," Russell explains. "She was later bred to Viceregal at Winfield Farms and went on to produce a stakes-placed colt named Arabacus. She was eventually sold to a group from Australia and was taken as a broodmare to New Zealand where she produced some reasonable runners."

Russell's son Curtis also owns horses, including one that won a Breeders Cup award. "He became part of a group of owners who formed Pinnacle Stables here in Florida. He has owned several horses with this group and their Star and Breeders Cup Winner is Musical Romance, who won the Fillies' and Mare Sprint at the 2011 Breeders' Cup at Churchill Downs and was the Eclipse Award winner nationally for the best Female Sprinter in 2011. That was a thrill of a lifetime for Curt and

Pinnacle Stables as well as for my husband, Johnny Russell, who also came from a racetrack family in Alberta. It was the most exciting horseracing experience I ever had in all the years I've been involved. My only regret was that my father didn't live to see the excitement of this incredible mare winning the Breeders Cup. Fortunately, he was still alive to see her run and win earlier in her career."

A love of horses seems to run in the Russell family. Curtis' 13 year-old daughter has become an avid rider. Musical Romance will hopefully get to the Breeders Cup once more in California this year and then the family plans to sell her as a broodmare.

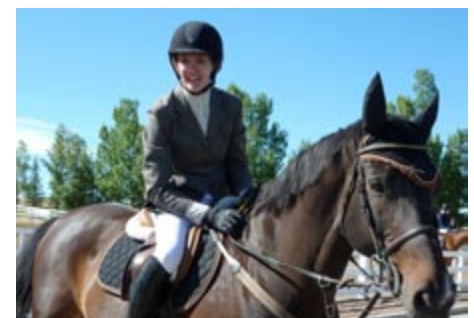


Lauren Meloff Sky, 2009, supplied photo.

LAUREN SKY

Edmonton's Lauren Sky started riding horses when she was 12 with her first set of riding lessons at Whitemud Equine Centre. "My dad, Bill Meloff was always involved with horses and was a big influence on me with respect to horses," she says. "He used to announce rodeos and horse shows. My very first horse that I rode and showed actually started out as

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Lauren Meloff Sky, Spruce Meadows 2012.

GRABBING THE REINS

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Delusions of Grandeur supplied photo.

my dad's cutting horse that I turned into a hunter/jumper show horse. My parents were the directors at Camp BB for 15 years and brought horses and riding back out to Camp when I was in Machon so I got to ride there as well. When I was staff at Camp, I was the riding specialist for two summers."

Sky has owned a few horses over the years. "My first horse was my dad's bay quarter horse named Togo's Bunny. My second horse was a 17-hand bay thoroughbred named Mr. Stormy (I'm pretty sure he was my first teenage love). I then owned a grey Hanoverian mare for a short period of time named Garbo. I've owned my most recent horse for 10 years. He is a 16-hand dark bay Hanoverian and he is my favourite horse of all. His show name is Delusions of Grandeur."

As a show jumper, Sky has won many ribbons over the years at a variety of different shows, including local shows as well as Spruce Meadows. "I have won championships in a variety of different divisions and levels (both hunter and jumper). Most notably, I have won several championships at the Edmonton Northlands Horse Show (now called the Edmonton Spring Classic) as well as championships at the River Valley Classic Horse Show, the Caledonia Classic Horse Show, and the Amberlea Kids for Cancer Show. I have been most successful on Delusions of Grandeur in the jumper ring (3'6" to 4' jumper divisions)."

Sky was raised in Edmonton and grew up at Camp BB and was very involved in BBYO. She and her husband have two boys, Michael and Billy, who have also been attending Camp BB-Riback for many years and will both be in BBYO this year. She was on the Camp board for 15 years and now is on the BBYO parent



Farrel Shadlyn and his horse, supplied photo.

board. She works as a CMA (Certified Management Accountant) in the property tax consulting business.

However, riding is truly Sky's passion. "I have ridden at several different stables over the year but have spent the last 12 years riding at Gorsline Stables in Sherwood Park and have had the most success riding there. I have a deep-rooted love for horses."

FARREL SHADLYN

Farrel Shadlyn, supplied photo.

Edmonton attorney Farrel Shadlyn has been an enthusiastic horse owner until recently. "My late grandfather David Rubin rode horses in the Polish Calvary in the 1920s and was a true horse whisperer," he says. "My mother Rosalie Shadlyn sometimes rode a horse to the school when she lived on a farm in Vilna, Alberta in the late '30s. When I was a youngster from the age of 7, I rode horses at Jewish camps in Ontario and also

worked in the stables."

He decided to take his enjoyment of horses to another level. "About 12 years ago a friend of mine in my St. Albert Rotary Club invited me out for a night at the races at Northlands. She and her husband owned several standard bred horses. As she saw I was so enamored with the sport, she asked if I would like to become their partner. I jumped at the opportunity and enjoyed the racing community with my friends for several years until they retired to California," he explains.

"In 2006 I started purchasing horses on my own, but always thought of the sage advice from Mr. Mitch Klimove and my uncle Abner Rubin who have been involved in the horse racing field for most of their adult lives: Look on horse racing as a hobby, don't ever expect to make money. If you break even or make a little money, you've done better than most," he says. Klimove is featured in this article as an owner, and Rubin enjoyed going to the races regularly.

Shadlyn also involved his children with

horses, taking them to the stables. "When my kids were younger I enjoyed taking them out to the stables and I remember my son Tevyn was upset when I only fed our horse carrots and insisted that I feed all the other horses carrots as well, as a snack. I then proceeded to buy bags of carrots to feed 50 horses at a time so no one would go neglected," Shadlyn recalls.

Shadlyn has had some modest successes over the years with his horses. "Over the years I had some successes and enjoyed the company of trainers, drivers, and always got a kick out of the spectators at Northlands. I like to refer to standard-bred racing as the more financially acceptable sport as opposed to thoroughbred. I never expected to make money. It was a hobby and if I could break even I was ecstatic. Fortunately, I had a few first place finishes, and the photos of myself and my horse in the winners circle are proudly displayed in my office."

He finally decided to leave the horse racing scene a few years ago. "A couple of years ago my last horse was not doing well and after spending time and costs on vet bills, surgery, and time off in the fields we decided the horse could no longer race. My \$12,000 horse was donated to a children's charity for disabled children and I was given a \$1000 tax receipt. I've had a fun time in the sport but at that point I decided to look for greener pastures."

SAM FROLICH



Sam Frohlich,
JAHSENA Archives photo.

While not an owner, Frolich has been attending the track at Northlands for about 60 years. He also worked there for a while, starting out as chalk boy (writing the letters on the board with chalk as was done way back when) and working his way up to selling tickets. Why did he start heading to the track? "I enjoy winning," he says, laughing. "I like the excitement and as long as it doesn't carry



Mitch Klimove, Alberta Superstein and horse. JAHSENA Archives photo.

you away, I recommend it." Frolich and his wife Margaret would only place two dollar bets, sometimes also going with his wife's sister and splitting the winnings. Some of their biggest wins were \$2500, \$3500, and \$5000. Not bad returns for two dollar bets!

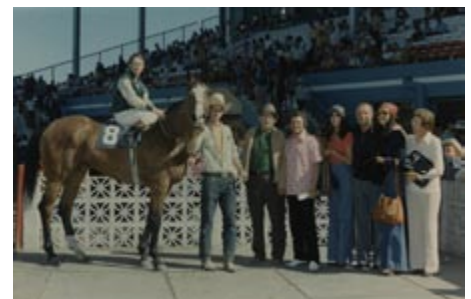


Russell's Musical Romance and his jockey Juan.
Supplied photo



Winning Russell horse, supplied photo.

Other names who could be included here are Sam Goldsmith, who had a share in a horse at one time, Mel Friedman, Albert Superstein, who was a part owner along with Mitch Klimove and Eugene Pechet, Bory Dlin, and Jake Superstein, who betted at the track regularly.



Kys Honour with Mitch Klimove, supplied photo

Bert Ramelson

By DAVID PERCY, Q.C.

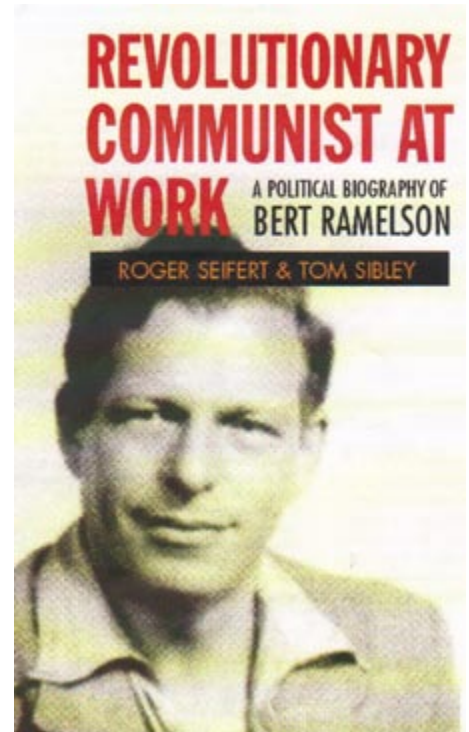
The University of Alberta Law School is celebrating its 100th Anniversary and faculty members are collecting biographies of their most celebrated Alumni under the category of "Firsts." David Percy discovered this one. He is the Borden Ladner Gervais Professor of Energy Law and Policy at the U. of A. Law School.

First Alumnus to have a biography titled "Revolutionary Communist at Work," and to be described by Prime Minister Harold Wilson as 'the most dangerous man in Britain'. During the 1966 seafarers' strike Harold Wilson again singled him out - as the ringleader of a 'tightly knit group of politically motivated men.'

This series promised a few surprises, so let's start with probably the most unusual U of A First of all.

I grew up in an industrial and seafaring town in North-East England where everyone knew the name Bert Ramelson. He was the National Organizer for the Communist Party of Great Britain and was at the heart of a strike by the National Union of Seamen in 1966. The strike threatened to bring the country to a standstill and was ended only when the government of Harold Wilson declared a National State of Emergency. He was one of a group of six organizers described by the Prime Minister as "a tightly knit group of politically motivated men" and later as "the most dangerous man in Britain." At the time, naturally I had no idea that he was also a distinguished alumnus of the University of Alberta.

This fact was pointed out to me by my then colleague, Jeremy Williams, shortly after I joined the Faculty. He pointed



Bert Ramelson Biography.

to the photograph of the class of 1934 and asked whether I had ever heard of one of its members. The photograph contains a picture of a very conventional,

BORN UKRAINE 1910, DIED ENGLAND 1994

- 1922 emigrated with his family from Ukraine to Edmonton, AB.
- 1934 - Won a scholarship to the University of Alberta, graduated from Law with First Class Honours and was awarded The Gold Medal.
- June 5, 1934 – Began articles in Edmonton.
Completed a year in practice as an articled clerk.
- June 8, 1935 – called to the Bar.
- February 10, 1936 – Changed his status to non-practicing and went to work on a Kibbutz in Palestine, left after becoming disillusioned with Zionism after a campaign to exclude Arab labour.



Bert Ramelson giving a speech, Wikipedia.

- Joined the Canadian battalion of the International Brigades, fought in the Spanish Civil War and was wounded twice.
- 1939 settled in Britain.
- During WWII he was a Tank Commander in Britain's Royal Tank Corps and in 1941 was imprisoned by German forces at Tobruk. He organized a mass escape from a POW camp and connected with the Italian Resistance.

- 1946-1953 full-time Secretary to the Leeds (Yorkshire) Branch of the Communist Party. Worked with the national Union of Mineworkers encouraging political activism.
- 1965-1977 was the industrial organizer of the Communist Party of Great Britain.
- He was a Communist and proud of it. He was as he said, 'no red under the bed'.
- Famous for being a 'hard man with humour'.

There are two videos about Ramelson available on YouTube, and his biography, "Revolutionary Communist at Work," can be purchased from www.abebooks.com. For links to these videos and other interesting articles, please "Like" JAHSENA on Facebook.

slightly smiling Bert Ramelson. The unusual and enduring hairstyle was convincing proof that this was indeed the same Bert Ramelson who was the scourge of the British establishment.

His family fled the pogroms that occurred in Ukraine following the Bolshevik Revolution and arrived in Edmonton in 1922, where his uncle Fred was a fur trader. In case it assists any reader to trace local contacts, Ramelson's birth name was Baruch Rahmilevich Mendelson. He must have been formidably bright, because he was educated in Ukraine until he was 11 years old and succeeded in winning the gold medal in law 13 years after he had arrived in the country. He articulated to Abe Miller (U. of A. Law 1924) in Edmonton, but left to work on a kibbutz in Palestine immediately afterwards.



Bert Ramelson, U. of A. photo.

His experience in Palestine began a life of activism. He left the kibbutz when he became disillusioned with a campaign to replace the Arab workers

on the kibbutz. He then fought in the Canadian Battalion of the International Brigades in the Spanish civil war, where he was wounded on two separate occasions. Upon returning to England, he took up the unlikely position of trainee manager with Marks and Spencer.

During the Second World War, he was a tank commander in the North African campaign and was captured after the fall of Tobruk. He organized classes in Marxism among his fellow prisoners of war and eventually led a mass escape from an Italian prisoner of war camp. He fought with the Italian resistance and later served in India.

He became a formidable organizer of labour in the postwar world in Britain. He was influential in setting up militant groups in the National Union of Mineworkers and was the mentor of Arthur Scargill in the momentous miners' strikes of the 1970s and 1980s. He expressed his opposition to the mainstream of the Labour Party by running as a Communist candidate in a 1963 by-election to succeed the late Hugh Gaitskell, the former leader of the Labour Party. He obtained only 600 votes.

Although acknowledged as a "hard man" in politics, he was an excellent orator and known to have a good sense of humour. He died in 1994, but remains well known in left-wing politics in Britain. In January 2012, a Conference was held in London in honour of his life and times. It was entitled "The Working Class Organized".



Bert Ramelson's uncle, Fred Ramelson, was a member of the Edmonton Raw Fur Merchant's Association and is shown in this photograph along with Abe Aaron and Shep Slutker. JAHSENA Archives photo.

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The Henry Singer Collection

By DEBBY SHOCTOR

The Singer family recently donated items belonging to Millie and Henry Singer to the Archives. The collection includes over 500 photographs and half a metre of textual records relating to the Singer and Podersky families. The Poderskys, Millie's parents and grandparents, were some of the first Jewish homesteaders in the Province, settling in Lacombe in 1894, just a year after Abe Cristall, Edmonton's first Jew, settled in the City, and two years after the ill-fated founding of the first Farm Colony in the Province, at Pine Lake in 1892.

Millie Podersky Singer was born at the Edmonton General Hospital, in 1922. Her mother, Anna Pollock, was from New York City, and came to Edmonton when she

was 16. Her father, Louis Podersky was born in Chicago and came to homestead in Lacombe when he was two, with his parents, in 1894. He left home when he was twelve and came to Edmonton to work as an auctioneer. He married Anna Pollock when he was 21 and she was 20. They had four children: Danny, Freddy, Edie and Millie. Millie lived on 112 St. and attended Oliver and Garneau schools. When she was 16, Millie won the Alberta Junior Ladies' Golf Championship at the Derrick Club, even though Jews were not allowed to play there at the time. Henry shared her life-long love of golf, as did some of her children.

Millie married Henry Singer on March 2, 1941. Henry was from Saskatoon, a talented musician and songwriter, mainly a percussionist, playing the drums, vibra-



Henry Singer the photographer, JAHSENA Archives photo.

phone and marimba, but also the piano. At one time, he played in the Salvation Army band in Saskatoon. He was born Oct. 19, 1911 to his parents Leiser and Helen Singer. His father Leiser Singer, was from Bukovina, and ran a clothing store in Saskatoon. At 16, he left Saskatoon and moved to Toronto, starting his career at the Toronto Hunt Club with Harry Bedlington's orchestra, and eventually worked in the music department at



Henry Singer (far left) with his band in Bermuda, 1930s. JAHSENA Archives photo.



Anna and Louis Podersky, JAHSENA Archives photo.



Henry Singer (middle back) with his band, 1940s. JAHSENA Archives photo.



Podersky homestead, Lacombe, circa 1900. JAHSENA Archives Photo.

Eaton's. He later worked in Bermuda at the Belmont Manor Hotel for four years. He finally came back to Toronto, he recalled, "Because I'd been asked to be part of the All-Canadian Band. We probably had as good a 14-piece orchestra as there was anywhere in the world...but we wound up making something like \$18.40 a night between us. This was really a fine



Millie and Henry Singer on their wedding day, 1941, JAHSENA Archives photo.

band...and I was so shattered that we just couldn't make a living. There was no exposure...no television. All there was was the bus and the one-night stands." Many years later, Henry was invited to play with the Edmonton Symphony. In 1938, Henry opened Bond Clothing on Jasper Ave., and ultimately opened Henry Singer Menswear in Edmonton, a business still run by his son Freddie and grandson Jordan.

Henry served in the army for four years during World War II, serving as a Corporal in the 2nd Battalion, Edmonton Regiment before joining the RCAF, and produced seven shows for the servicemen, which toured the country, including "The Blackouts of 1943," "Ham 'n Legs," "Wings over Yorkton" and many more. Henry also wrote many songs while in the Service, including the hit tunes: Why am I Always Joe," "He's My Acey Ducey," "Oh What a Dream," and "Meet You at the Corner." While Henry was away at War, Millie opened up the first Baby store in Edmonton, The Trudy Gay Shop, named after her daughter Trudy, next to the Strand Theatre on Jasper Avenue. Henry and Joe Shoctor, along with Moe Lieberman, were among the original founders of the Edmonton Eskimos. In 1948, Calgary won the Grey Cup and



Henry Singer, JAHSENA Archives photo.

turned it into a national classic sporting event, and Edmontonians were green and gold with envy. "A bunch of us were sitting at the Edmonton club," said businessman Walter Sprague," and frankly our noses were out of joint. Those Cowtowners had just won the Grey Cup. And we weren't even in the bloody league." Meanwhile across town, another group which included Henry, Joe Shoctor and Moe Lieberman, had the same idea. "We had two different factions going on," said Henry. "Neither group knew about the other. We already had our own little meeting when we discovered all the rich guys on the other

Continued on page 14



Henry Singer in the Army, JAHSENA Archives Photo.

THE HENRY SINGER COLLECTION

Continued from page 13

side of the tracks were doing the same thing.” The two groups finally got together and hired Murray Montague as president. Sprague was the Vice President and Joe Shoctor was the general manager. The



Millie Singer, JAHSENA Archives photo.

Edmonton Eskimos Rugby Football Club was formed with 20,000 public shares at \$1 each. Annis Stukus was named coach in February, 1949, and the players included Peter Lougheed, Steve Paproski, Gene Kiniski, Steve Mendryk and Alex Romaniuk. In 1951, Normie Kwong joined the team and then Rollie Miles, and “old spaghetti legs,” Jackie Parker. In 1952 they went to the Grey Cup, in 1954 they won the cup and kept it for 3 years. Henry, known as “The Fan’s Fan” and Bryan Hall had a pre and post-game radio show on CJCA. Joe Shoctor did the play-by-play from the sidelines.

Henry was also a photographer, and started the photo gallery at the Edmonton Art Gallery, and wrote a children’s book, “Little Johnnie Greenworm”. His son Danny went on to be a professional photographer as well. Henry was also a race car driver, songwriter and community leader, in both the Jewish and general communities, chairing both the UJA and

United Way campaigns. Henry and Millie had four children, Freddie Singer, who married Jennie Zottenberg; and Trudy, who married Danny Pekarsky, as well as Danny, a photographer in Vancouver, who married Tisha Todd, and Trig married to Christine Haebler. Henry passed away in 1980.



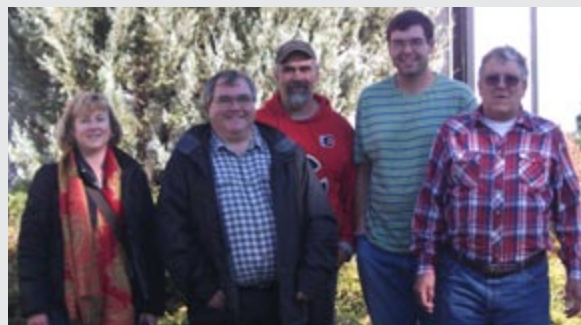
Henry plays the vibes, circa 1970s. JAHSENA Archives photo.

AGM 2012: “The Lost Jewish Colony of Pine Lake”

Please join us on November 22nd at 7:30 pm at the Beth Shalom Synagogue to hear about the lost Jewish colony of Pine Lake. Michael Dawe, former Red Deer City Archivist, will be speaking to us about the research he has done about the Pine or Blank’s Lake Colony.

Michael comes from a family of Red Deer Pioneers and had lived in the area his whole life. He is now the Curator of History at the City of Red Deer Museum, and ran in the last Federal election as a Liberal candidate. He has been researching the Pine Lake colony for several years.

In the Summer of 2011, he accompanied JAHSENA members David Marcus and Debby Shoctor on an expedition to the area to look at the remains of the colonists’ dugouts, which are still evident in the area.



Pine Lake expedition group, 2011 including Debby Shoctor, Dave Marcus and Michael Dawe. JAHSENA Archives photo



Michael Dawe, supplied

The colony existed from 1892 until 1895 when they seemingly disappeared without a trace.

Come and hear the latest research on this, the earliest of Alberta’s Jewish farm colonies. The AGM will take place at 7:30, followed by the program. Kosher refreshments will be served and admission is free. We look forward to seeing you there.



Grave of Judah Blank, son of Rabbi Blank of the Pine Lake Colony, Hirsch Cemetery, Manitoba

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NEW MEMBERS

JAHSENA would like to welcome the following new members:

Leah Neaman, Vancouver, BC
 David & Tillie Kauffman, Vancouver, BC

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 September 1st to August 31st. Donations are tax deductible. We thank the above listed people for their support in the past year.

JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

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

25 cm of text relating to Mitzvah Day, Temple Beth Ora and other Jewish organizations, donated by Francie Nobleman.

20 Oral History interviews and transcripts, conducted by Lisa Miller for the TT100th anniversary.

12 DVDs and 127 photos of Edmonton Hadassah-WIZO events, donated by Edmonton Hadassah-WIZO.

Over 500 photos, 2 medals, 1 button, two pastel drawings and .5m of text, donated by the Singer family, having to do with Millie and Henry Singer.

5 photos of the SAM formal, George Levine and the groundbreaking for the first Talmud Torah School, donated by David Levine.

22 DVDs of documentaries created by Dan Kauffman for CFRN TV, 1978-1998, donated by David Kauffman.

3 photos of Julius Spevakow and an article on his store in Mannville, donated by Fay Leigh.

Three pieces of AV equipment, donated by Ted Power.

2 cm. of text and 14 photos, donated by Reva Bernstein, dealing with various aspects of the Edmonton Jewish Community.

5 cm. of textual material donated by Rachel and Fred Garfunkel.

7 photos and 2 newspaper articles about horse racing, donated by Norm Schayer.

17 photos and one booklet relating to horse racing, donated by Mitch Klimove.

1 photo donated by Miriam Cooper.

Two portraits, 115 photos and 14 large format posters donated by Edmonton Talmud Torah.

Daniel Larson "An Analysis of Traditional Jewish Mortuary Practices in the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery," Large format poster.

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.

"FROM PEDLARS TO PATRIARCHS: A LEGACY REMEMBERED" and "BITTERSWEET MEMORIES: THE WAR YEARS"

The Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta is taking orders for copies of "From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered," and its sequel: "Bittersweet Memories: The War Years" its documentary films about the history of the Edmonton Jewish Community. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of these films, they are available on DVD for \$18. Please contact the Archives office at 780-489-2809.



**TO ORDER CALL
780-489-2809**

✂ 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
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- Patron \$100
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- Individual \$18
- 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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