

## **JEWISH EDMONTON STORIES ONLINE**

### INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

Esther Starkman - Beth Israel's Second and Third Locations

July, 2021

In 1953, the new Beth Israel, on 119th Street and 102nd Avenue, became our family's spiritual home. Howard and I were married there in 1962, as were our daughters, Hillary to Dr. Lyle Gorenstein, Georgina to Daniel Danzig, and then once again, the Jewish community moved to the new West End. The third iteration of the Beth Israel was built on 170th Street in Wolf Willow. Not to leave out our son, he was our third wedding at Beth Israel, but the new Beth Israel. Daniel and Marina were married there on June 18, 2000 and they were the first wedding in the new building at that time.

My husband Howard was president of Beth Israel during the transition between the 119th Street shul and the new one in Wolf Willow. He and his board actually stick handled a lot of challenges in the time of the move from one synagogue to another. There were many, many issues at that time.

In keeping with the tradition in my family and my commitment to the Jewish community, I was active at the synagogue. I chaired with my lifelong friend, Marilyn Cohen, a very successful and high-profile 95th anniversary dinner for Beth Israel. I did serve on the board from 2003 to 2009, and in 2014 Howard and I were honored, along with Michael and Jodi Zabludowski, by the synagogue.