

TRANSCRIPT

JEWISH EDMONTON STORIES ONLINE

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I think I've lived here since 1970. So that is what, a long time, 50 some odd years, 50. The synagogues Beth Israel and Beth Shalom, and Talmud Torah, and now I am a little bit involved in the Jewish Senior Centre -that's another. So I guess those are the institutions that mean something to me.

Well I taught kindergarten when I first moved here at Talmud Torah. *And where was Talmud Torah located at that time?* It was located in Glenora, and then I had children. So I didn't teach there. So you want to know the Jewish places? *We're going to talk about Jewish places, then we'll talk about not Jewish places.*

I also taught for Edmonton Public and when the Ghermezians set up the Menorah Academy I got a job teaching kindergarten there and I taught there for 20 years. Mostly just the kids. They were for the most part, I enjoyed working with them a lot. I enjoyed kindergarten, teaching that grade. So I would say it was just the kids who I taught. Some of them still communicate with me. A lot of them are now getting married or are married, which makes me feel older. But then I am older. *Are a lot of them still in Edmonton?* No, I don't think so. Because a lot of those kids were imports from the other places. The Ghermezians brought them here, and so I would say most of them don't live here anymore.

Now not Jewish places: the YMCA. I go there to work out and what else. *Which YMCA?* Jamie Platz. I usually go there to work out. I'm trying to think of other places. Just, I think any of the other places that are meaningful to me would be Jewish ones. *You said that the Jewish Senior Centre is starting to become more important to you?* Yes, I'm excited about that. My son-in-law is involved in the planning of it and I think that's a good thing for the future of our Jewish community.

Well I came from Toronto. I grew up in Toronto. So I was used to having a lot of Jewish people around me and as friends, and the only one thing that is kind of disconcerting is I feel that the Jewish community here is very transient, and a lot of the friends who I have made over the years, most of them have moved away. So it can be a little depressing. I think you know, you make friends with people and then they leave, so yeah. *What's made you stay?* Probably is my husband Bruce Mintz who grew up here. He's lived here his whole life and he really likes it as a place to practice as a lawyer, and so I guess that's why I stay, and my kids. I forgot that I have two adult kids with children of their own who live here too. So that's, so I'm not going to leave them. *And what do your kids do?* The oldest one is a clinical psychologist. She has a practice here in Edmonton. The middle one is an engineer -chemical engineer who works for Environment Canada and my youngest child is the only one who lives away, and she lives in Montreal.

Well I think it would be a good thing to promote the city and try to get more Jewish people to move here. But I think that might be happening. I have met a few Israelis -younger couples who since the war began on October 7th, they have moved here. So I mean the war on

October 7th was terrible, but it started on October 7th and continues. It is just horrific. But I kind of like meeting new Jewish people who have moved here. Hopefully they'll stay. *What do you think it would take to get more Jewish people to move here?* Probably there needs to be jobs for them and they're not going to -you know, move. I think they have to have jobs. One of them who I met I don't think had a job -one of the couples. So yeah, that's important, and then of course the whole infrastructure. You know, the Jewish infrastructure: the schools, the community centre -all of these things.