

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2001

C1

# Victim of bus accident 'loved, died walking'

## Woman, 70, lived through Holocaust, ran local shoe store

GEOFFREY VANDERBURG  
Journal Staff Writer  
EDMONTON



Florence Burstyn

Florence Burstyn survived the Holocaust only to be struck down by a school bus Wednesday on her daily stroll in Edmonton.

"We walked every day the same route for so many years and yesterday was the last walk for my wife," Issy Burstyn said. "A tragedy of this type is just not fair."

Burstyn, 70, died after a bus carrying students to Talmud Torah elementary school hit her about 8 a.m. when she crossed 84th Avenue while walking on a service road beside 149th Street. She was only six blocks from home.

Issy, 71, said he and his friend Henry Cynamon were walking together on one street while Cynamon's wife, Lily, and Florence walked together on another street not far behind.

"When I was proceeding towards the house, a policeman was already standing there waiting for me and turning over the news," he said. "So they rushed

me by police car straight to the University Hospital."

Issy and Florence moved to Canada independently in 1948 after surviving the Second World War in Poland.

At the age of 13, Issy stood on the outskirts of the Warsaw ghetto and watched as the Nazis burned it to the ground.

Wednesday, he stood at his wife's side at University Hospital and told her he loved her before

watching her slip away. She died about 10 a.m. from head injuries.

Issy said he refused to believe his wife of 45 years was dying.

"I kept talking to her. I love you. I thought maybe, maybe. She did not respond. Her beautiful face didn't tell anything."

Issy said Florence was "full of life. She had an answer for every question. She was very intelligent. Bright. She was everything."

Initial media reports about the accident, based on information supplied by police, described the victim as an "elderly 84 year old."

Her family says that's far from the truth.

She was an active, energetic 70-year-old, son-in-law Bill Lister said.

He said his mother-in-law died doing what she loved most. "She loved walking and died walking. It's a sad but true story."

Issy and Florence Burstyn founded Vogue Shoes in 1960. They had stores downtown, in Southgate and in West Edmonton Mall.

In addition to her husband Issy, Florence is survived by her three children, Nora Lyman, Lily Lister and Shawn Burstyn and four grandchildren.

Police said the accident is still under investigation.

## Obituaries

### BURSTYN, Florence (nee Garbuz) A Woman of Substance

Longtime Edmontonian, Florence Burstyn died suddenly on March 28, 2001 leaving behind a 70-year legacy of love and devotion to family and friends.



Born May 21, 1930, in Pinsk Poland, the youngest child of four siblings spent the first 17 years of her life in war-torn Europe. These formative years sowed the seeds for traits that Florence would carry through life: pride, strength, courage, wisdom and warmth. Florence emigrated to Edmonton in 1948. In 1955 she married Isadore Burstyn. Together, Florence and Issy founded and grew a thriving shoe business and raised three children. Florence approached work and family with an abundance of energy that never ceased to amaze those who knew her. She was a master bridge player, avid reader, businesswoman, commentator, wife, sister, mother, Baba and friend.

She will be deeply missed and forever loved by husband, Issy; daughters, Nora Lyman and Lily Lister; son, Shawn; sons-in-law, Bill Lister and Lawrie Lyman; grandchildren, Sheen, Daniella, Zack and Jesse; sister, Dash Zottenberg; and brothers Mike Garbuz and Yasha Israeli.

Donations can be made to the charities of one's choice.

### BURSTYN, Florence



The funeral of the late Florence Burstyn of Blessed Memory will be held on Friday, March 30, 2001 1:00 p.m. at the Jewish Funeral Chapel, 12313-105 Avenue.