

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday January 25 at the Qualicum and Graham Park Community Centre on Esquimalt Avenue in Graham Park, doors open at 12:30 pm.

The first item on the program will be the annual Chapter Auction. Maynard will be the auctioneer as usual, and all members are encouraged to bring along any horological items they wish to sell. Reserve bids are permitted on all items.

The second program item will be a presentation by Maynard Dokken. He apparently has two or three subjects available for presentation, but at press time he had not decided which one he will select for this meeting. However, whatever he finally chooses, he promises it will be interesting.

There will be the usual Mart and Display Tables of course, and if anyone has Show and Tell items, these will be accommodated.

Meanwhile, sort through your workshop or collection and bring along any surplus items you may have for the auction. You may even make enough to pay off some of those outstanding Christmas bills.

## Carl Jensen



Maynard Dokken recently met with Carl Jensen at his home to seek his acceptance of an honorary membership in Chapter 111. It is hoped to be able to make a formal presentation to Carl at our meeting on January 25.

The Bytown Times is published five times a year by the Ottawa Chapter 111, National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors.

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Vice President: Bill Pullen.

Secretary: Ben Roberts.

Treasurer: Charles Beddoe.

Immediate Past President: Dan Hudon.

Program Director: Allan Symons.

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The Chapter meets five times a year on the fourth Sunday of the months of Jan., March, May, Sept., and Nov., at 1:00 pm. Annual dues \$16.

Membership in the NAWCC is obligatory.

Association dues: U.S. \$55.

## Last Meeting

The last meeting was held on Sunday November 23 at the Qualicum and Graham Park Community Centre.

The major program item at this meeting was a very interesting and absorbing presentation by Anna Minsky and Millie Mirsky about their great-grandfather Moses Minsky. They were assisted by Gary Fox who introduced them and provide the slide presentation which accompanied the talk.

Prior to the presentation, President Maynard Dokken announced the results of the sale of horological items on behalf of Carl Jensen, and that Carl has donated approximately half of the money realized to Chapter 111 funds. In recognition of his role as the original founder member, and his ongoing support of Chapter 111, it was proposed that Carl be granted honorary lifetime membership in the Chapter. This proposal was carried unanimously. Ben Roberts will establish this on a formal basis.

Patsy and Georges Royer were thanked by the Chapter for their very successful hosting of the Chapter's Wine and Cheese party on November 22.

A letter of thanks has been received from the Community Association for the Chapter's recent contribution. Also, a new annual agreement has been signed, and members are reminded that neither the Association or the City of Ottawa assumes any liability for accidents or other incidents which take place during our use of the facility. Both the Association and the City have been approached regarding the blacking out of the windows in the main room so that we can use a projector with the large projection screen which is available there. As nothing could be done in this regard, Maynard and Ben Roberts undertook to purchase material and make removable window blackout screens. These can be stored at the Community Centre, and put up and taken down reasonably easily when required. They were in place for this meeting and enabled the very successful use of both an LCD projector and an Epidiascope during the meeting.

The Epidiascope is made available to us on a loan basis whenever we need it and, while somewhat cumbersome, will successfully project an enlarged view, colour or B&W, of any letter sized page. Let us know if you wish to use it for any presentations ahead of time, so that we can ensure that it is brought to the meeting.

Dan Hudon will be holding another clock repair course, probably in the spring.

There were errors in the reporting of certain show and tell items in the November Bytown Times. Corrections will appear in the January 2004 issue. In an effort to avoid future errors, members are asked to provide Ben Roberts with information in writing about the details of the items being presented.

Considerable time and effort is required if only one or two people set up, and dismantle and store tables and chairs etc. in the meeting room. Members are asked to assist with these activities both prior to and after each meeting whenever possible.

### Seen at the Last Meeting

Born in Kovno, Lithuania in 1829, he and his sister were brought to New York when his widowed father emigrated. They moved to Kemptville, Ontario when he was 14, and in 1857 at age 28, he moved to Ottawa where he spent most of his life.

In 1861 he was drawn to the Caribou gold fields in BC, sailing from New York via Panama, San Francisco and Victoria, continuing up the Fraser River to the Caribou. After one winter working in the Williams Creek mine, he went into business for himself bringing provisions to the gold camp.

Deciding to return East, with a group of companions he made the hazardous journey to San Francisco by horseback.(Some 1500 miles). Here he was recruited to do prospecting in Central

America, only to find, on his arrival in Panama, that he had been hoodwinked into participating in illegal gun running to Mexico. To escape, he stowed away aboard a ship bound for San Francisco, where he found himself in the midst of the American Civil War. He joined Uncle Sam's army and was wounded in the leg during a confrontation with rioters.

Returning to Ottawa in 1867, he opened his first store - a jewelry store cum pawnshop.

In 1874 he met his future wife Pauline Reich. She was 17. Pauline's father was a wealthy New York business man, and had he known how little Moses owned, he would have forbidden the marriage. So when the Reich's visited Ottawa, with the help of friends he managed to convince his future father-in-law that he owned land and several profitable businesses. Moses and Pauline were married that year, and according to Pauline, she never wanted for anything throughout her married life.

Together they raised a family of five boys and six girls, and by 1890 Moses was truly a prosperous man. His jewelry store and banking business in Ottawa had become an asset to the growing city. He also became one of the largest jewelry retailers in Eastern Ontario. He made the name Bilsky synonymous with jewellery in Ottawa.

Moses was renowned as a philanthropist, particularly toward the many Jewish immigrants arriving in Canada at that time. There were no benevolent societies in those days, and Moses ensured that their families did not go hungry in time of need. Whole families sometimes moved in with the Bilsky's, and Moses would often set them up in business with small stalls in the market.

He was one of the founders of the first Jewish Congregation, and was its president from 1900 to 1902. Truly both Moses and Pauline were instrumental in laying the foundation of Jewish life in Ottawa, and Moses became an example of generosity and moral fortitude to Jews and Non-Jews; always ready to relieve the sufferings of the newcomer.

This is only the very briefest synopsis of the fascinating and sometimes amusing presentation given to Chapter 111 on November 23 by Anna Bilsky and Millie Mirsky, great grand daughters of Moses Bilsky.

Accompanied by an excellent display of screen graphics provided by Gary Fox assisted by his daughter Erin, and together with a display of memorabilia illustrating the life and times of Moses Bilsky, this presentation provided one of the Chapter's most interesting program items of the year, and was very much enjoyed by everyone.

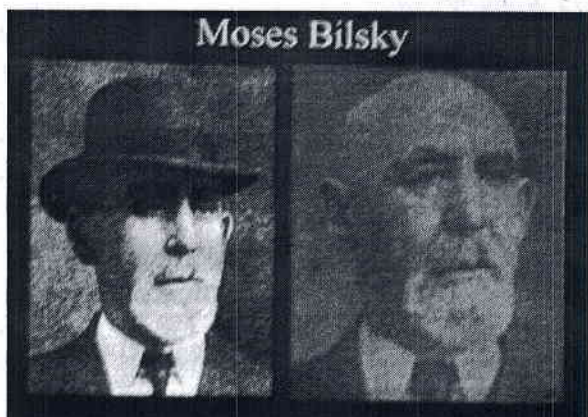


Anna Minsky, Gary Fox and Millie Mirsky

**Moses Bilsky**

- Moses – The Early Years
- Ottawa – The Early Years
- Marriage to Pauline
- The Bilsky Family
- Moses and the Ottawa Jewish Community
- Stories and Tributes

*Some of the projected graphics used to illustrate the presentation*



### Seen at the Last Meeting Cont.

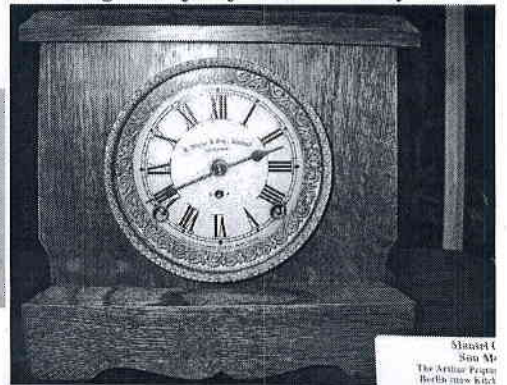


Members were very interested in examining the many items on display illustrating the life of Moses Bilsky and his family



Millie Mirsky, Erin Fox and Gary Fox

**Mantel Clock  
Soo Model**  
The Arthur Pequegnat Clock Co.,  
Berlin (now Kitchener), Ontario.  
Ca. 1905-1917  
  
Sold by M. Bilsky & Son Ltd. Ottawa.  
  
(The Bilsky name is on the dial, and also  
on trade stickers on the back of the clock)



The Pequegnat Soo Mantel clock sold by M. Bilsky and Son, which Allan Symons brought along for display from his Canadian Clock Museum

### Chapter Wine and Cheese Party

The Chapter Wine and Cheese Party was held at the home of Georges and Patsy Royer on Saturday November 22. Although attendance was down this year, some 23 members, wives and friends spent a very convivial evening in conversation and viewing Georges extensive and varied collection of clocks. The Chapter's thanks go to Patsy and George for hosting the event.



Hosts Patsy and Georges Royer



Tim Bryans, Costas Vakariss, Bill Pullen, Louise beddoe, Jean Hollebhone. At rear: Dan Hudon, and Brian Hollebhone.



Gus Varkaris and Luc Laurin



Veronica and Kevin West, Pete Graham, Teresa Dokken, Tom Porter, Judy Graham, Louise Beddoe, Rita Pullen.

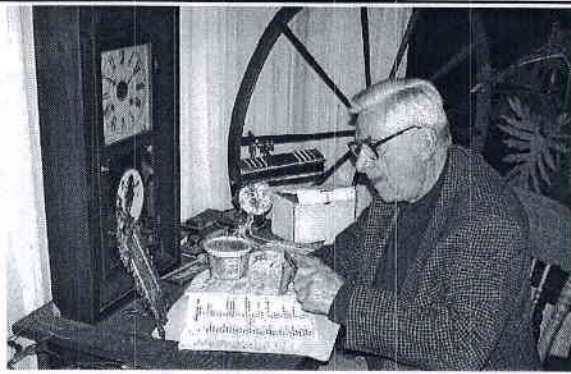


Rita Pullen, Judy Graham, Charles Beddoe, Pete Graham.

### Wine and Cheese Party Cont..



*Elaine and Tim Bryans.*



*Treasurer Charles Beddoe collecting money in his usual exemplary fashion.*



*Veronica and Kevin West, Tom Porter.*



*Bill Jones, Monique Hudon, Bill Pullen.*



*Tim Bryans, Gus Varkaris, Jane Varkaris.*



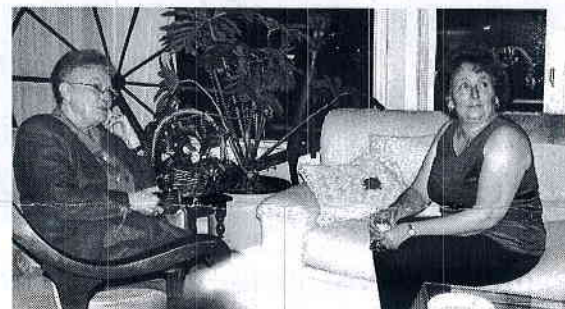
*Grant Perry, Christine Gervais.*



*Vice-President: 'Laughing' Bill Pullen.*



*Jane with just a few of the items in Georges' collection.*



*Teresa Dokken, Judy Graham.*

### Correction

The following errors appeared in the November 23, 2003 issue of the Bytown Times:

Page 1: The report on the Last Meeting incorrectly stated that the two advertising clocks shown by Allan Symons were manufactured by Westclox in their factory in Scotland. In fact their manufacturer is unknown, but both clocks have movements by Pequegnat. Also the Raybestos advertising clock was found in a garage in Bancroft, Ontario, not in the Ottawa Valley.

Page 3: The caption under the pictures of the two advertising clocks should have read as indicated above, while the caption under the picture of the two alarm clocks should have read that the animated seal clock was manufactured by Westclox, Scotland, and the other was manufactured by Westclox, Peterborough, Ontario.