



AORTA

ALPHA OMEGA REVIEW OF TORONTO ALUMNI CHAPTER, PI CHAPTER | APRIL 2021 VOL. 62. NO.5
WEB SITE: WWW.AOTORONTO.ORG

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Certificate of Merit Awards will be presented
to Bonnie Chandler and Miriam Rosenberg

**AO REVIVAL TORONTO
COOKING CLASS**

Thursday April 29th, 2021 - *ON ZOOM*

*Bonnie
Stern*

AO REVIVAL TORONTO SPEAKERS SERIES PRESENTS

DEALING WITH COVID BURNOUT BY MANAGING OUR MENTAL HEALTH, SLEEP AND NUTRITION

ZOOM EVENT: WEDNESDAY MAY 19TH, 2021 AT 7:30 PM

SPEAKERS



Gillian Mandich, PhD

Happiness expert, researcher and founder of The International Happiness Institute of Health Science Research



Jordana Hart

Holistic Nutritionist and founder of I Hart Nutrition



Julia Glowinski, MSW, RSW

Registered Social Worker and Certified Sleep Consultant

Tickets will be \$25.00 for AO members/spouses/children and \$30.00 for all guests per computer.

All proceeds to be donated to **Sick Kids Hospital Dental Department**.

To register for the event please contact Jackie at the office at: 416.250.7417 between 9:00 am-1:00 pm,

M-F or email: info@aotoronto.org. Once registered, a Zoom link will be sent out.



IRIS' INSIGHTS



This sums up what I'm feeling as I write this article: You know you are sensitive, and you've lost your sense of humour when..... here in an unedited text between my Cousin in England and ME:

Cousin: Hi. How are you all? We were vaccinated yesterday XX

ME: Frustrated. This vaccine thing is insane.

Cousin: Yeah. Why aren't you not vaccinated?

ME: Supply issue. Now it's a matter of luck!

Cousin: Why luck? Aren't they vaccinating by age? We started with 90s+, then went lower decade by decade. 50s in March, 40s in April, 20s & 30s in May.

ME: It's frustrating that people jump the line and dentists are only being notified through word of mouth.



Cousin: You are front line tho (and that, through word of mouth, did sound quite amusing)



ME: It's not amusing. It's sickening.

Cousin: Well, you all deal with conditions of the mouth!!! (Sort of British humour)

ME [after pondering for 30 minutes]: I missed the pun that I made. Now I get it and it's funny.

Cousin: Cool! (TRANSLATED as my Cousin saying=Phew! You had me worried. Thought you've completely lost it!)

I have already used up so much of the space allotted to me and I don't know if I have more to say. But let's get real, is it even possible to keep me quiet? I had my shy stage, back in the day. Now I feel empowered, not because Aviv Ouanounou started calling me Madame President, but because I have really had a lot of opportunities to exercise the muscles of teamwork, decision making and expressing the voice of AO through my lens and my filter. Recently, we have worked on anti-Semitism because it is, unfortunately, still a hot, heated, and relevant topic. We are also working on bettering AO for future generations with ideas for more engagement and hands-on Continuing Education. There are always projects that need completion and some protocols that need revision. For the benefit of the Fraternity, we bring our heads together to right the ship, and these moments show that we are working as friends, with a united front and are truly in agreement on many topics. Thank goodness the day-to-day running of the Fraternity is handled uneventfully by Jackie, Bronwyn, and Joyce.

In the words of Benjamin Disraeli, "Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action." Here is what our Calendar looked like in February and March 2021:

- Friday February 19: Winter Seminar and Charitable Draw. We had an AFTERNOON (1-4 PM) Core 1 Course for 3 Core 1 CE points with PLP presenting new material and more cases and some new cases with the title, "Changing Times, Changing Needs." Mr. Alan Lachapelle and Dr. Peter Hong delivered their signature lecture with lots of caveats and risks to ponder. The Half-Time Show was the Charitable Draw that was seamlessly done by Guy Aboodi and Andrea Heckler-Aboodi. The list of prizes was amazing, generous, and impressive. Thanks to the Suppliers, Donors, the Charitable Draw Committee, and members who secured prizes.

continued on page 4.

AORTA



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of Alpha Omega

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Next Executive Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 (with the ABM)

Next AORTA Deadline (June)

Monday, May 3, 2021

Notable Achievements

Please inform the AORTA of fraters or members of their families who have achieved success, honours or milestones.

Benevolence

Please call Stan Markin regarding illnesses or deaths of fraters.

Office: (416) 497-2122

Home: (416) 789-2067

Associate Placement

Fraters who are interested in having an associate join their practice or who are interested in associating with another dentist (full or part-time) contact Philip Novack

Office: (416) 224-2114

Fax: (416) 224-1282

The opinions as expressed by the editors and columnists of the AORTA do not necessarily reflect the views of Toronto Alumni Chapter and/or its executive. All correspondence should be sent to the editor at barryreinblatt@sympatico.ca

DENTAL VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

Dentists needed... to treat disadvantaged children in Jerusalem who cannot help themselves.

For information, contact **Les Train** at drtrain@rogers.com, or check our website at canadianfriendsofdvi.org.

RCDSO PET EXAMS

Are you writing the RCDSO Pet exams? Do you want to join others who are writing for a study group?

Email Jackie at info@aotoronto.org and we will put you together.

 You are invited to join the Toronto Alpha Omega Fraternity group on Facebook

Do you have a story to tell that other Fraters would love to hear?



Contact the AORTA editor Barry Reinblatt at barryreinblatt@sympatico.ca with your suggestions!

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

If any Alpha Omega member knows of individuals or corporations who may be interested in sponsoring our programs please let me know. This will ensure the quality of our programs and events.

Please email this information to drbgreenbaum@rogers.com. To all committee chairmen, please forward a list of your corporate sponsors. Also please list the contacts and email addresses.

Thank you.
Robert Greenbaum

FROM THE EDITOR



It finally looks as if there may be a light at the end of the tunnel for this pandemic. Even with scarily high numbers and talk of variants, the rollout of the vaccine gives me hope that the day will come when we can get back to whatever the new, post-pandemic, normal may be. This past year has definitely come with some lessons for all: we need to listen to each other, look out for each other, and most importantly, something my father taught me when I was young and I live by every day, we must respect each other!

In this issue of the AORTA, you can read about the recently completed Winter Seminar and see the list of prizes that you didn't win (unless you were one of the lucky ones) in the Charitable Draw. You will also find information about a number of upcoming events, including the AO Revival's Fitness Event and their Cooking Demonstration. There is also information about the always important Annual Business Meeting.

As well, this issue has several interesting articles for you to enjoy. Regular contributors Stan Kogon and Steven Brown have each sent in pieces written in their unique styles. Barry Korzen sends us a fascinating picture from his travels to Vietnam. As well, we have re-printed (with permission) an article about frater Perry Brickman who faced anti-Semitism at Emory University in the early 1950's. To this end, we have a link to a survey about anti-Semitism being conducted currently. Please enjoy this issue of the AORTA.

Barry Reinblatt

IRIS' INSIGHTS (Continued)

- Tuesday March 2: Category 2 Evening CE with periodontist, DR. FARYN BERGER on Treating the Pregnant Patient: Precautions, Periodontal Considerations, and the Pandemic. Faryn delivered a well-researched and outstanding lecture with excellent points to use in our daily practice.

Hart and Julia Glowinski (the first two are the same amazing speakers who spoke at Fraternity Night in September 2020, however they have NEW MATERIAL. Julia is a psychologist and sleep expert)

Here is what's in store for Spring 2021:

- AO REVIVAL has 3 fabulous Zoom programs:
 1. Wednesday March 31 at 7:30 pm: BOOK CLUB with Ellen Schwartz. Look on the Project Give Back website to access an AO MEMBERS only coupon (buy her book "Without One Spoken Word", and get her first book, Lessons from Jacob", for Free)
 2. Wednesday April 21 at 7:30 pm: FITNESS with Barre Pilates via Zoom
 3. Wednesday May 19 (time TBD): SPEAKER SERIES with Gillian Mandich, Jordana

My favourite Chinese Proverb: If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will avoid one hundred days of sorrow.

Fraternally Yours,
Iris

...1000 WORDS

Visiting the Trang An Grottoes in Vietnam, on a misty morning, such as we encountered, it felt that we were entering an eerie and foreboding area reminiscent of scenes from "The Kong: Skull Island" which was filmed

here. Until I turned around. And directly behind our boat was a small skiff with a photographer following us through the grottoes, rowing with his feet and focusing with his hands. And in the stainless steel box

was a printer so that by the time we returned to our dock all the pictures he had taken were ready for sale.



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A FRATERNITY OF SILENCE

This article originally appeared in Tablet magazine, at tabletmag.com, and is reprinted with permission.

One man's fight to uncover the history of anti-Semitism at America's dental schools

When Perry Brickman failed out of Emory University's dental school in 1951, his parents—Lithuanian Jews whose families had immigrated to Tennessee, where Brickman was raised—were disconsolate. "My mom had worked really hard all her life," he told me. "I was gonna be her boy! It was really upsetting to her when I flunked out. My dad got real quiet." Brickman paused. "They did live to see me graduate from dental school with honors. But they always still thought if I'd worked harder, I would've made it at Emory. Unfortunately, they didn't live long enough to hear the apology."

That apology came from the president of Emory University in 2012. It acknowledged that Brickman and almost two-thirds of his Jewish classmates were deliberately kicked out of the school or made to repeat a year or more of their classwork. The dental school's dean from 1949 to 1959, John Buhler, had systematically flunked them outright or attempted to force them to quit. (In the years after Brickman's brief tenure, Buhler also amended the school's application so that students had to check off whether they were "Caucasian, Jew or Other.")

In *Extracted: Unmasking Rampant Anti-Semitism in America's Higher Education*, with a foreword by Deborah E. Lipstadt, Brickman details how he uncovered Emory's dental school's history of profound bias. "There were four Jewish boys in my class," he told me. "All four of us got kicked out. Can you imagine the humiliation? We were so embarrassed we didn't speak for 50 years. We avoided each other. My wife called us a fraternity of silence."

Most of the Jewish dental students who failed—"close to 100, more if you wanted to count the ones who weren't allowed in in the first place," Brickman said—wound up going into other fields. But Brickman was

allowed, "with my hat in my hand," to attend the University of Tennessee dental school. He graduated with high honors in 1956. He went on to co-found the Georgia Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, sit on the Georgia State Board of Dental Examiners, and become president of the Atlanta Jewish Federation.

In 2006, Brickman was invited to an exhibit about the history of Jews at Emory, curated by Eric Goldstein of the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies. Brickman stopped in front of one particular panel and froze. "The fifth panel was on anti-Semitism at Emory," he said. "I was stunned. I saw a bar graph showing that 65% of us flunked out or had to repeat years, and I said, 'Oh my God, the four of us were not the only ones.'" That graph had been made from data provided by the Anti-Defamation League in 1961. Tipped off to Buhler's actions, the ADL had presented a wealth of evidence about Buhler's behavior to Emory, which then compelled Buhler to resign. But Buhler wasn't censured, and went on to other academic jobs. The story stayed quiet.

After seeing the exhibit, Brickman was determined to make sure everyone knew the truth. He visited libraries and archives all over the country and interviewed Jews who'd spent time at Emory. "People didn't want to believe it," he said. "But I traced it all back to the American Dental Association, my parent organization."

In the 1940s, the ADA formed a council on dental education in an attempt to improve the field. The organization hired a consultant named Harlan H. Horner, who published a report in 1940 suggesting all the ways dental schools could do better. One important step was admitting fewer Jews.

"He wrote that 36% of the dental students come from four states—New York, New Jersey, Illinois and Pennsylvania—and those students are all from the same 'immigrant background,'" Brickman said, the quotation marks audible in his tone. "In other words, they're Jewish. Maybe a few are Italian. And this is not good. We need representation of all people; if you're a dental school in

Georgia you need good ol' country boys! You shouldn't have any Jews! Some of this made sense: He wanted students from everywhere. It sounds real good. But he obviously had an agenda." The ADL leaked the story to *The New York Times*, and the American Dental Association issued a statement saying no worries; they'd never agree to Horner's recommendations. "This was in the middle of the war, and they said Jewish boys were fighting like the other boys," Brickman said. But the Horner commission had already approached individual dental schools urging them to take action. One of the schools was Temple; when Brickman visited its archives, he said, "I found a letter the dean of the dental school wrote to the president saying that his number one accomplishment was improving the school's horrible physical plant, and number two was that four years ago, 72% of the freshman class was of the Jewish persuasion and now, only 24% were. They said it wasn't anti-Semitism or anything against the Jews, it's just that we were admitting too many students from New York state. But the number of Jews went from 72% to 24%."

Brickman went through old yearbooks from dozens of dental schools to see how Jewish student populations changed in the wake of the Horner commission. "I looked at names and fraternities," he said. "And if it was a name that you couldn't really tell, but he was married to Sadie Goldberg, I knew a boy was Jewish." Sure enough, he found that the numbers of Jews in dental schools—"even Columbia!"—plummeted. "It was a conspiracy, no question about it," he said.

He also interviewed the three Jewish students who'd been in his class. "The boy who sat right across from me was deemed 72nd out of 72 students in the class," he said. "He went into the service, then got into Temple, because someone knew someone who knew someone. He finished first out of 131 in his class. Another guy also joined the service and also got back into dental school. The fourth boy became a psychologist. We all had to start from scratch." Brickman interviewed another student who was told by Buhler, "I don't know why you Jews want to be dentists. You don't have the hands." Brickman said,

"One of the boys became an interventional cardiologist. That certainly requires the fine use of one's hands! It was just hatred, that was all."

Brickman was born in 1932, but he looks and sounds like a much younger man. "For my 75th birthday my kids gave me a laptop," he said. "They took me to the basement and there it was! They said, 'Surprise!' And then 'There's another surprise; we used your credit card!'" Brickman decided to use the laptop to make a documentary about Emory. "I went to the Apple store," he said. "They teach you one-on-one and I got pretty good."

His neighbor, Emory professor Deborah Lipstadt, heard about his project. "I saw her in shul and she said, 'Why haven't you showed me?' Emory had just backed her at that trial, so I didn't want to say, 'Because you don't have a clear enough mind to handle this! You belong to Emory!' I said, 'Well, I didn't want to conflict you.' She said 'Look, send it to me.' I dropped it by her house and didn't hear from her for two weeks and thought, 'Uh-oh.' But then she wrote. She usually writes terse emails, not with good grammar, because they're just emails. But this one was long and eloquent. She told me how much she loved it, my documentary. She said, 'Right is right and wrong is wrong.' She said, 'You did this the right way. You were objective. This has to be a book, a movie!' She and a few others got me in to present the documentary to the VP of Emory. He said, 'This is not Emory.' And I said, 'Not now. But it was.' He said, 'What do you want us to do?' I said, 'Well, that's gotta be up to you.' If I'd asked for money, it would've sounded like a shakedown, and anyway, as one of the four boys said, they don't have enough money to pay us for what they did to us. They ruined our lives. We're all OK, we had good lives, but it wasn't what we'd planned. And we still bear that burden."

In 2012, Emory President James Wagner presented a formal apology to the people the school had harmed. "I am sorry," he said. "We are sorry. We know that Emory can never totally repair the impact that discrimination had on Jewish dental students more than half a century ago, but we can use the opportunity provided by Dr. Brickman's

research to reflect on these events in ways that make us more vigilant." Emory also hired a professional filmmaker to make a documentary, *From Silence to Recognition: Confronting Discrimination in Emory's Dental School History*, incorporating Brickman's source material, and showed it at the event. "You couldn't get a parking place at Emory that night," Brickman said. "That's how I found out it was bigger than Emory."

Brickman credited his friend Miles Alexander, a Harvard Law grad, former lawyer for Martin Luther King Jr.'s estate, and former chair of the Atlanta Ethics and License Review Boards (who, as an Emory freshman, had advocated with classmate Elliott Levitas for the integration of Emory's grad schools) for pushing him to pursue justice: "Miles said that the bookends of anti-Semitism in Atlanta are Leo Frank and Emory dental school," Brickman said. "When fear is instilled in a community, it allows evil to go unopposed."

By Marjorie Ingall
November 04, 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENING CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR

Monday, April 12, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Adam Kaplan
New Minimal & Moderate Sedation: RCDSO Guidelines and a Review of Nitrous Oxide.
Zoom Presentation

AO REVIVAL FITNESS

Wednesday, April 21, 2021
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Raise the Barre with Karen Medina
Zoom Presentation

AO REVIVAL COOKING WITH BONNIE STERN

Thursday, April 29, 2021
7:15 - 8:45 p.m.

Zoom Presentation

SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST AND SPEAKER

Sunday, May 2, 2021
TBA

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Tuesday, May 11, 2021
Zoom Presentation

Just A Reminder...

The Roster is for the exclusive use of the membership of Alpha Omega Fraternity. Anyone found using this directory for solicitation purposes will be prohibited from advertising to Alpha Omega and may be the subject of legal action.

TIKKUN OLAM STARTS WITH YOU

Alpha Omega Toronto Alumni Chapter is inviting **YOU to act NOW**. It's a simple ask; anyone who wants to see an end to the humanitarian issue and pervasive problem of Racism and Anti-Semitism, can give of themselves.

The Link to the Ontario Tech University Study on anti-Semitism:

Did you know that anti-Semitism and antisemitic hate crimes have hit record-breaking numbers for the fourth year in a row? According to the most recent B'nai Brith audit, more than 6 antisemitic incidents occurred every day in 2019.

A research group out of Ontario Tech University is conducting an independent and federally funded study on anti-Semitism and wants to understand your experiences with it. Dr. Barbara Perry and Matthew Stein are leading the first Canadian study to examine anti-Semitism and antisemitic hate crimes in Ontario and Quebec, especially in universities and colleges. They hope the information from this study will inform anti-hate policy and improve community initiatives and victim programs. Participation is anonymized and can be done by completing the online survey or an interview.

The survey can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2L9mBYz>

If you have any questions or are open to be interviewed, please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Barbara Perry, at barbara.perry@ontariotechu.ca

Thank you for your continued support and your efforts in helping to share the study,

Irina Levit

Dr. Carole Gruson's call to action:

A few months ago, I was approached by a student from Ontario Tech University (Oshawa, Ontario). Her name is Irina Levitt and she is studying the experiences of Jewish students on campus in the 18–30-year-old demographic. Our U of T Dentistry Jewish Pi Chapter students are now involved in filling out Irina's questionnaire and forwarding it to friends in different departments and faculties across the province. We will also be asking the Jewish Beta Delta students at the University of Western Ontario Dental School to participate. The more participants the study engages, the more effective will be the analysis. Toronto Alumni Chapter's newest graduates are encouraged to participate and to document their past experiences with anti-Semitism.

Thank you to Irina for taking on this project. I think the results will be somewhat predictable, but a study of this nature can be used to prompt changes on our university campuses.

Respectfully Yours,
Dr. Carole Gruson, Past President and Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity Toronto Alumni Chapter

From Dr. Iris Kivity-Chandler, President:

Hello to everyone immersed in their studies, vocations, and avocations. My goal as the current president of **Alpha Omega Toronto Alumni Chapter (2020-2021)** is to have done my contribution to Tikkun Olam. This Hebrew term is a universal idea that applies to all of humanity. It is a call to action to literally "fix our world" and more broadly to have each one of us engage in bettering our world.

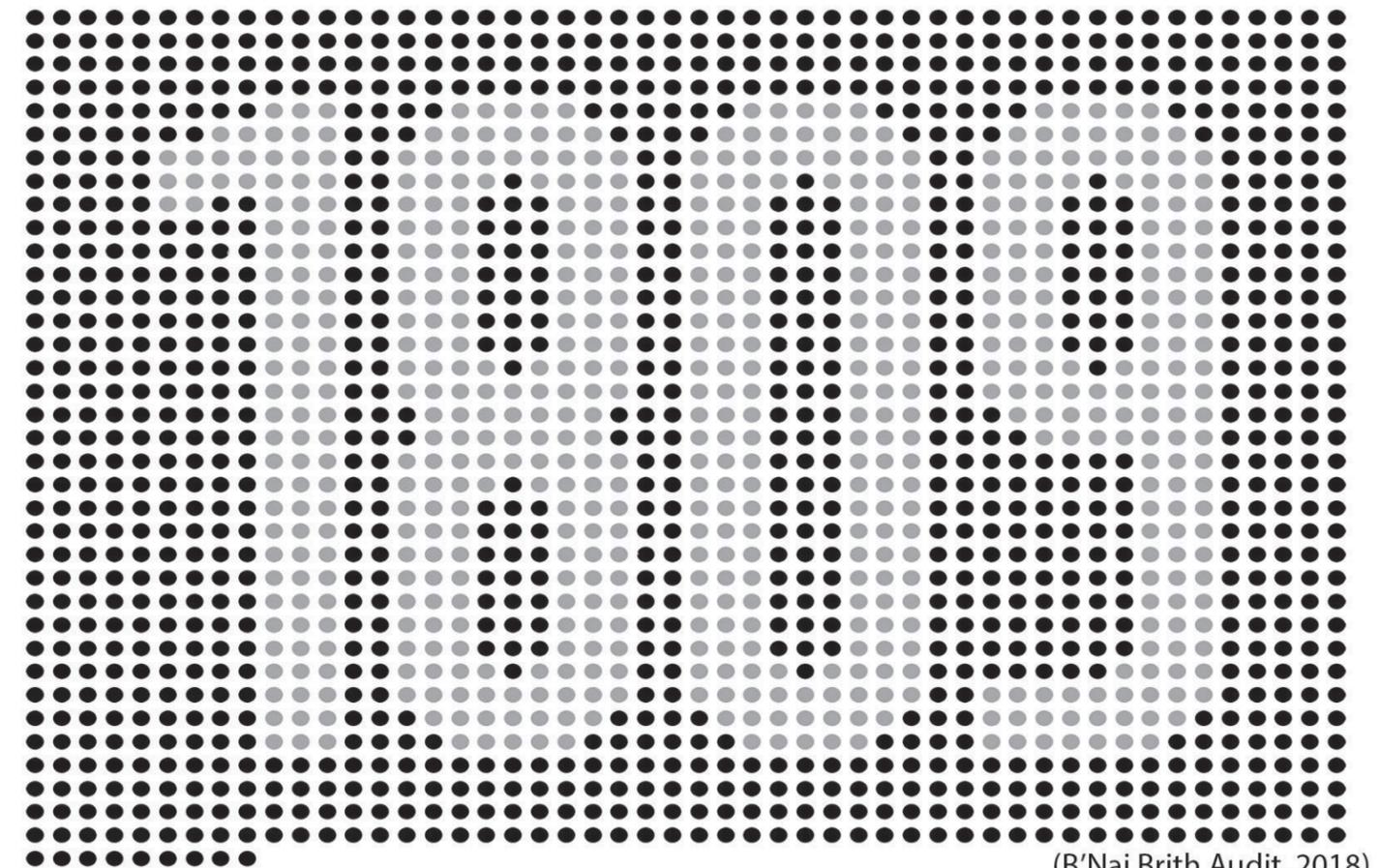
Since Irina Levit first approached our Chapter, she came across an unforeseen low response and disengagement. As such, the study has been expanded to include **ANY ADULT WHO IS JEWISH AND HAS SOMETHING TO ADD** in terms of their experience with Racism and Anti-Semitism. Please pass this on.

Here's to connecting, sharing, and doing the right thing.

With Appreciation,

Dr. Iris Kivity-Chandler, President, Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity Toronto Alumni Chapter, 2020-2021; iris.aortoronto@gmail.com

In 2018, there were...



(B'Nai Brith Audit, 2018)

Incidents of Antisemitic Harassment in Canada.

This is 1809 too many.

We want to know more about your experiences and perceptions of antisemitism

This is a federally funded research study to explore antisemitic hate crimes in Ontario and Quebec.

Please Share Your Experiences with us

bit.ly/2L9mBYz

This study is being led by Dr. Barbara Perry (Centre for Hate Bias and Extremism) and Matthew Stein (Social Research Centre) of Ontario Tech University



This study has been approved by the Ontario Tech University Research Ethics Board
REB # 15519
on November 8, 2019

WINTER SEMINAR AND CHARITABLE DRAW REPORT

No one would have believed in the last days of February 2020, that human affairs would be forever changed.

Few men even considered the possibility that life would be put on hold.

And yet, a world pandemic due to a virus immeasurably superior to our immune system has done just that!

The 2020 Winter Seminar and Charitable Draw marked the end of an era (for now). During our last in-person function over 150 members were sitting in one room - chatting, laughing, learning, and exchanging aerosols with each other.

At 1 pm, on the 19th of February, 2021, we fought back, and made another step towards bringing the world back to normal. The 2021 Winter Seminar and Charitable Draw took place, this time in a Zoom format.

131 members enjoyed an excellent seminar - Changing Times, Changing Needs given by Mr. Alan Lachapelle - Department Head - Manager, PLP; and Dr. Peter Hong - Senior Dental Consultant, PLP.

In these times we all find ourselves using more and more tele-dentistry, we've learned of jurisdiction regulations; we've learned more about the informed consent process; and mainly we've learned that we have someone to turn to ask for guidance when the unfortunate happens.

We also learned that if there is some resistance when preparing a canal, make sure you are not perforating the vestibule...

The Charitable Draw took place during the seminar. A very sterile draw - I really missed the excitement of winners running down the aisles... Nevertheless - a draw was completed, and lucky winners won some AWESOME prizes. The list of donors can be found in the AORTA you are now holding.

\$4500 were raised through this year's charitable draw!!!

It will be distributed through the chapter's Charitable Board of Trustees.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked so hard to arrange these prizes: Iris Kivity-Chandler, Mark Chandler, Laurel Linetsky-Fleisher, Allan Katchky, Saira Paredes, Larry Rotman, and Sharon Perlmutter.

And so, we have proven: The pulse of life, growing stronger and stronger, will beat again!

As life returns to normal, the question of another world pandemic causes universal concern. Is our planet safe or is this time of vaccine-related hope merely a reprieve?

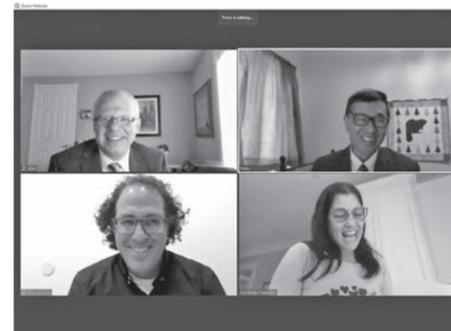
May 2022 allow us to winter-seminar in person!

Guy Aboodi, Chair

Donor	Prize
Medical Mart	Fitguard Touch Powder-Free Nitrile Glove Medium Box 300 Case/10 Box - Value Of \$299
K Dental	\$100 AMEX Card
Sinclair Dental	2 x Oral B Power Brush
Maxill	2 x Sports bag with: 2 x 500ml Sanitizer 25 x 50ml sanitizer tubes 1 x tbmm next gen wipes 1 x Form 3 Hand Soap 1 x 550ml Renovo Lotion 5 x 50ml Renovo Lotion
Henry Schein	Google Nest Hub Max
Klausz Dental Lab	\$100 LCBO Gift Card
Skye Flowers	Forever roses flower box - \$185 value
Danielle MacDonald	2 x 1 week of virtual Barre fitness class (4 classes) - \$50 value
Canadian Orthodontics Labs	\$75 LCBO Gift Card
Dr. Larry Rotman	2 x Blue Jays Tickets
Dr. Sharon Perlmutter	2 x Blue Jays Tickets
Chanel	Haircut or Blow Dry gift card
The Gardiner Museum	Meredith Chilton's Savour: Food Culture in the Age of Enlightenment catalogue (includes recipes!)
Dr. Saira Paredes	Moet Champagne
RDT Dental Lab	4x Awesome Gift Basket
The Surgical Room	TYPODONT - Implants and Bridges
Boyce Orthodontic Lab	2 x \$100 Amazon Gift Card
AO Revival Committee	2 x AO Revival Prize Package March- June 2021: Includes 2 tickets for the AO Revival Book Club, AO Revival Fitness class, and the AO Revival Speaker Series - \$125 value
Alpha Omega	2 x \$100 Amazon Gift Card
Alpha Omega	\$1000 Grand Prize

Committee members: Andrea Heckler, Saira Perdes, Shawn Groyeski

Adapted from "Jeff Wayne's Musical Version of The War of the Worlds"



ALPHA OMEGA

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY MAY 11th, 2021 • TIME: 7:30 pm

Place: Zoom

RSVP BY MAY 3rd REQUIRED

Certificate of Merit Awards will be presented to Bonnie Chandler and Miriam Rosenberg

To register for the event please contact Jackie at the office at: 416.250.7417 between 9am - 1 pm, M-F or email: info@atoronto.org. You will need to provide her with: your email address and phone number.



Once you have RSVPed you will receive a link to register on Zoom

YOU TUBING



Covid lockdown has provided the opportunity to pursue notions which normally would not be important enough to bother with. I have found YouTube to be a useful, if not simplistic, way to do research. An algorithm in the app is designed to send the user more videos of the same or similar topic until you have seen them all or reach a saturation point. The quality and the validity of the videos vary greatly, and of course, the adage 'Don't believe everything you read or see' is always in play. Anyway, here are three unrelated items which piqued my interest.

Squash

About two years ago we were in Egypt listening to our guide describe the terrain around the Giza plateau prior to a closer inspection of the great pyramids. During the talk, I looked toward the north and noticed a strange structure in the distance rising above the shimmering desert. The guide didn't know what it was, so I tried my camera's telephoto lens. I saw a rectangular, glass walled, structure with spectator stands on four sides which, believe it or not, looked like a squash court. I snapped a few photos and then joined our group preparing to climb the interior of the Great Khufu Pyramid. About a year later, now into Covid lock-down, I was reviewing my Egypt pics and saw that fuzzy squash court in the desert. I did a YouTube search and quickly found a series of videos of the Egyptian Professional Squash Championship which was held during our Egyptian tour. This tournament was played at night in the most technically advanced court I had ever seen. Compared to other sports, almost no one watches squash. In the 1970's you would be

lucky to squeeze in a dozen spectators peering down from an opening above the court. Early television was a joke. Two players scurrying around a poorly lit box, chasing an invisible ball and the viewer unable to see either the ball or the players when the play came close to the back wall. Over the next 50 years, glass was added to the back, sides and sometime the front wall. However, unless you were a squash player, it was still difficult to follow play because the black ball disappeared against the unlit seating area outside of the see-through court. Glass walls did allow a small increase in the number of spectators. The Egyptian Professional Squash Open was played in a glass box, at night, in the open air, with specialized lighting and a ball that was tinted so it was visible to both the spectators and the video viewer. I estimated that 1500-2000 people could experience the live play. I was delighted to watch many high-quality matches with the glowing pyramids in the background. Squash will never attract crowds like other sports, but it is not because you can't follow the play. The point is, with a bit of patience and the help of YouTube, the technical evolution and improved viewability of the sport over 50 years can be seen with little effort. In 2000, the brash and superbly skilled Jonathan Power of Canada was the World Champion of Professional squash. By the way, today, the best male and female squash players in the world are Egyptian.

Pool

Like many teenaged and adult males in the 50's and 60's, we were not strangers to pool halls. For sure, the tidy billiard establishments in Toronto's Bathurst and Wilson area and even down the road from the Dental School on Edward St, were quite different from the seedy, rough and tumble halls which usually come to mind. After many hours of play over many years, my pals and I improved our skills and went from terrible to just bad. A few years ago, I began downloading billiard apps on my iPad. The early ones were artificial and buggy, but it didn't take long for them to improve. The object ball response became realistic, the random nature of collisions and caroms improved, the cushion bounce, bank shots and opening breaks also became quite natural. Eventually, most variations of the sport such snooker, 8 ball and 9 ball could

be selected. You could adjust viewing aspect, cue speed and in some apps, add 'English' or spin to the cue ball. Some apps provided a visual aiming assist, but how realistic was that! You could play with a partner or against the computer which offered built-in opponents of varying skill levels. Despite the advancements, there was no tactile feel, the aiming viewpoint was restricted and there was no one to kibitz with. Our game was snooker, so, I took to YouTube to see how the pros played the game today.

Like squash, spectators have a hard time gathering around a billiard table. However, unlike squash, the game is easy to record visually and display on a screen. The best players, such as Ronnie O'Sullivan and John Higgins, display great control and make the game look simple. Their management of the cue ball and ability to pot the black ball repeatedly is amazing. They not only are superb at pocketing balls, they can play safe, so the opponent must chance a high-risk play or foul. In the 70's Canada's Cliff Thornburn was a world champion snooker player.

As expected, YouTube flooded me with numerous videos of ball and cue sports. I was fascinated by the movies of the pool greats of the 40's and 50'. Names like Willie Mosconi, Minnesota Fats, Luther 'Wimpy' Lassiter and UJ Puckett were notable characters playing pocket pool. Using a smaller table than snooker, this game was played in the US recreationally and by hustlers, as there was little prize money playing professional pool. The difference between snooker and pool is like the difference between a string quartet and a rock band. Both require great control of the instruments, but the performance has quite a different atmosphere. Where snooker is quiet and dignified, pool is impetuous and loud. Current pool champions such as Earl Strickland and Mike Sigal are constantly chatting, playing to the crowd, and complaining of bad luck when things don't go well. Despite the lack of etiquette, their skill levels are off the wall. While checking out the many pool videos, one player came repeatedly to the fore. As a boy, he appeared in the Philippines where he was a child phenom taking on all comers. As a young adult, he came to the USA where he won consistently

YOU TUBING (continued)

after beating everyone in qualifying matches and continued to win most of the big money challenge tournaments. He is now sought after world-wide for matches and exhibitions. He plays all variations of pool, one pocket billiards and some snooker. I checked out some of the hundreds of videos featuring Efren 'Bata' Reyes and soon realized that he is the Roger Federer of cue sports. He is quiet, hardly ever says a word and seems to be a shy man. No one in the history of the sport has won more regional and international tournaments or more prize money. He is rightly called the 'Magician'. Reyes is now in his late 60's and is still playing, although perhaps not quite at his finest. The videos I enjoy the most are of him in the last five years, playing pool in Manila in an open-air hall, surrounded by crowds noisily betting, children scrambling about, traffic noise, and roosters crowing. Efren is dressed in a loose-fitting T shirt, often wearing shorts and flip-flops, taking on pool hustlers one-third his age. He rarely loses.

You

When I was writing the essay 'Two by Two' (Aorta, Feb. 2019) I probed into the dogma of young earth creationist. The make-believe replica of Noah's ark had opened and there was a lot of enthusiasm for the creationist movement. Despite their passion, the creationists knew they were losing the fight to have a presence in science education in US public schools. As a smoke screen, they began transitioning from a biblical 'Creator God' to a nonspecific 'Intelligent Designer' - just the same nonsense with a new name. The underlying principle of creationism/intelligent design is; all living 'kinds' appeared suddenly within the last 10 thousand years and although there have been minor changes within a kind (many dog types from a common dog) they do not accept descent from a common ancestor or the fundamental elements of evolution i.e. Gradual change in allele frequencies over time as a response to fluctuations in the environment, competition for sex partners, predation, food availability and perhaps chance mutation. The 'kinds' were placed on earth by an Intelligent Designer, perfect and fully formed, and are unchanging. Homo Sapiens are a 'kind' and are not related to any other kind (fossil

hominins). Modern humans are the product of a designer who made us, perfect in his image. I thought I might explore how well the so-called Intelligent Designer constructed the human body, using YouTube as my research assistant.

If we move from head to toe we start with a familiar area- teeth and jaws.

Crowding;

The main reason for crowded teeth is tooth size/ jaw size discrepancy. Probably true- but you need to ask why should there be a mismatch if the design was perfect? As dentists we appreciate the complex influence of genetics, variation in jaw dimensions, variation in the dynamics of jaw growth, food consistency and a range of other less common influences. Evolution suggests that as faces got flatter and jaws shorter, changes in tooth morphology had to occur even if it takes thousands of generations. Since most crowding does not influence survival, folks with crowded teeth could reproduce and do. Crowding will be around for a while. I sense smiling orthodontists.

Missing teeth:

We know that missing teeth are not randomly distributed amongst the 32 candidates. The most common missing teeth are 8's, 2's and 5's. All other single missing teeth are rare or extremely rare. When was the last time you saw a single missing 3? The pattern of missing teeth is explainable by understanding the mammalian and primate dental formulae and keeping evolution in mind. Without getting into details the primitive placental mammalian dental formula (I, C, Pm, M) was 5,1,4,3. The earliest primate formula was 3,1,4,3 and of course apes and humans- 2,1,2,3. It is apparent that the most distal members of the I and Pm tooth type were lost. The distribution of missing teeth is only explainable by adaption to changes in anatomy over time. Today, exodontia and medical intervention save many young people from dying with sepsis from infected impacted third molars thus allowing them to survive and procreate, and in a minor way, over thousands of years, interfere with the human formula from becoming 2,1,2,2. The evidence for the reduction in tooth numbers

is clear in the fossil record, only a designer with a propensity to relentlessly tinker could have instituted such a plan.

Maxillary Sinus:

Anyone with acute or chronic sinusitis has suffered from the inability to clear excessive fluids from the antrum. Why a designer would place the drainage hole or ostium high up on the medial wall is nothing but malicious. Our ancestors in the deep past had long snouts and were highly dependent on smell. Their antra were shallow and elongated, and the ostium was located close to the floor. Millions of years later, with more dependence on vision, flatter faces and standing erect, we are left with annoyingly poor nasal plumbing.

The Recurrent Laryngeal Nerve:

If an electrician said he would have to run a wire to the attic and back to electrify a basement appliance sitting beside an unused live receptacle, you would point to the door and wave goodbye. The Recurrent Laryngeal Nerve (RLN) takes a route from the vagus to supply the lower part of the larynx by a route which is just as dumb. It travels to the chest, loops around the aorta on one side and the subclavian artery of the other side before turning 180 and heading north to the larynx. This kooky route is not a special feature of Homo Sapiens. The RLN takes a similar pathway in all four-legged animals. The study of the transition from vertebrate fish to land dwellers shows the nerve which originally supplied a gill arch and then the larynx, getting 'caught' by the carotid as the distance between the head and heart increased. It might seem silly in humans but think of the giraffe and even more peculiar the huge long necked sauropod dinosaurs. Someone estimated that their RLN was about 28 meters in length. Now that is some fine engineering!

Back Pain:

Anyone who suggests that our curvy S shaped collection of vertebrae, tendons and muscle attachments works just fine, hasn't lived long enough. Our common ancestor with the apes was an arboreal creature with a relatively short stiff spine, all the better for tree climbing and swinging, where the action levers are the extremities. Over millions of

YOU TUBING *(continued)*

years of two-legged upright walking and having to balance our too large cranium over the vertical axis, our poor spinal column just hasn't adapted fast enough. We needed flexibility to swing our narrow hips as we step forward. This is evident to a ridiculous degree if you ever have seen fashion models stride down a runway. The apex of each back curve is a mechanical weak spot. Herniated discs, osteophytes, strained ligaments, and osteoarthritis of the neck and lower back is endemic and sometimes debilitating. Our backs are jerry-rigged, based on the framework given to us by an arboreal primate. If someone actually designed the human spine, I would send (him, her, it) a pink slip.

Miscellaneous flaws:

We have retained vestigial bits, most of which have little function or are poorly designed for their current job. We live nicely without a vermiform appendix and the coccyx, the remnant of a tail bone, is now an anchor for some rather important muscles. Erector pili muscles, attached to each hair shaft, aren't much use to humans except if you are into goosebumps.

Our eyes are wired backwards so that the exit of the optic nerve from the retina leaves a blind spot. Cephalopods, who developed along an entirely different pathway haven't a blind spot. Most quadrupeds and even birds see better than we do, and with sensitivity to a wider range of wavelengths.

Our knees and ankles are adaptations of joints which were not evolved for upright walking and running. They are held together with an interlacing of ligaments that works fine for swinging in the trees but cannot deal with the increased compressive forces of walking upright not to mention football, hockey, tennis, and soccer.

Who would have thought it was a good design plan to wrap the prostate gland around the ureter? No applause from men over 75.

Our bodies are magnificent reflections of human evolution. We are today what we were yesterday and what we were many thousands or millions of years ago. No intelligent designer needed.

If you wish to play with the videos about Squash, Pool and You, paste these URLs into your browser. For those who are unfamiliar with YouTube, clicking on any of the thumbnails on the right side of the YouTube screen will take you to a fresh collection of

Squash

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dn3mLTx38_w&ab_channel=PSASQUASHTV

Pool

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAH4a44ukMg&ab_channel=JefGaLingVlog

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WHEN CORNED BEEF SANDWICHES WERE A NICKEL AND THE SNOW WAS SIX FEET HIGH

By Steven Brown



As my kids refer to me as Doc Brown, it is my right to go back in time. So as a reprise, dedicated to all who have become Bubbys and Zaidies in the last number of years; I dedicate this to you, in the hopes that your grandchildren will one day feel the same about you, as I did many, many years ago, about my Bubby and Zaidy.

I'd like to introduce you to two of my favourite people. The one on the right is Bubby, and the one on the left is Zaidy. The one in the middle with the big ears, is the future Doc Brown. If you wanted to get really formal (and my father often did), the one on the right was Bubby Dora, and the one on the left was Zaidy. That was it. Zaidy didn't have a first name. Zaidy's first name was Zaidy. If ever a birth certificate were found, I'm sure it would have said - Last name Brown, First name Zaidy. I remember his phone bills used to come addressed to Brown, Zaidy, 693 Queen St. West, Toronto.

Anyway, I came from a family in which my father worked in his tuxedo store 6 days a week, and my mother worked for an optical company. On Saturdays, she'd go down and help my father at his store. (My father didn't believe in paid staff.) So my mother used to say to any prospective customer that wandered in - "See anything you like?" If they said yes, she'd rent them a tuxedo. If they said no, she'd have business for the optical company. But that's another story.

So every Saturday my Bubby and Zaidy got to take care of one of their six perfect grandchildren, at their secondhand suit house/store on Queen Street. The day would always start off the same way. It was down the block to DixieTheChinaman, for toast and hot chocolate. A lot of people didn't seem to have last names in those days. Dixie's was The Chinaman. There was another man down

the street named KostaTheGreek, and another named LeoTheUkrainian. You see, prejudice was non-existent in those days. Everybody seemed to be just what they were.

Well, then it was back to the house/store, where I would tie up my grandmother's shoes in the living room, (while they were on her feet, as she watched TV, yelling at the referee, that the bad guy wrestler had a hidden object in his trunks), while sitting on the chesterfield. (That's a sofa). There was nothing like watching her yell and scream some more, as she tried to shuffle into the front store, when the bell rang, and a customer walked in. Life was grand as a six year old.

Early in the afternoon, (only once a month, thank goodness), she'd take me into the back kitchen for lunch. Now this was a woman with a lot of heart. Unfortunately, she also had a lot of lung and liver. Lung and liver for a six year old? Once a month on Saturdays, I'd go home with a pocketful of lung, and a pocketful of liver. Occasionally, I'd get lucky, and make it to the garbage when her back was turned, but like any good Jewish grandchild, I'd always ask for more. Boy, she knew I liked that lung and liver.

By the way, did your grandmother used to keep the chesterfield covered in plastic so it wouldn't get dirty? Or should I say, what grade of plastic did she use? Mine used industrial strength. The stuff that crunches when you sit on it. But on top of the plastic she'd always place a bedspread. She told me "It was so people wouldn't have to sit on the hot plastic." I later heard her confide to my grandfather - "It's so the plastic shouldn't get dirty."

By this time, it was what I liked to call "Gay Shluffen Time." Every Saturday at about 2 o'clock, my grandmother's best friend Gay Shluffen was supposed to come over. I had always wanted to meet her, but it seemed she only came by after they sent me upstairs for my nap. So I'd sit by the window for 15 or 20 minutes. But I guess she never arrived until after I'd fallen asleep. And I guess she always left, just before I woke up. Because unfortunately I never met the lady.

And, I've always had this theory about grandfathers. After age seventy, you can tell how old they are by how high they do up their pants. When my grandfather died, I think he was about eighty-two, because he was doing his pants up about three inches below his arm pits. Pants go up about two inches per year on grandfathers,

and I've always envisioned a man of about ninety-five, doing his belt up around his forehead, and having to undo his zipper to talk. So the next time you see a pair of pants walking down the street; remember. Have respect. That's someone's grandfather! I also used to think shirt companies could have saved a fortune. Eighty-two year old men could have had a whole line of shirts made for them with just collars, two sleeves, and two buttons worth of material for their chests. The pants covered up the rest. There's a million to be made there somewhere.

Well, by this time it was getting late, and my grandparents and I would jump into the 1954 Pontiac with 4,000 miles on it, (it was 1960), and it was off to my father's store, one block east of Mars Restaurant. My father's business cards used to say - Brown's Formal Rentals, One block east of Mars Restaurant on College. He always said it was better than an address. He also always said he went to College for 35 years. I couldn't argue. He said he got his C.P.A. - Cleaning, Pressing, and Alterations. But back to the story.

We'd get to the store and my mother and father would say - "We just have to break up a few more suits." I was to later learn that in Tuxedo lingo, that was the act of sorting the pants, jackets, comberbunds, etc. into their respective places, after they had been dropped off from the previous nights rental. But I can still remember a little 6 year old boy, alone, telling jokes in the back of the store, to himself and all the tuxedos. I never broke one up, but once, I got a chuckle from a white one with black brocade.

So. Those were my perfect Saturdays, when I'd go visit my Bubby and Zaidy, and hear stories from my grandfather about "When corned beef sandwiches were a nickel, and the snow was six feet high." You know. Come to think of it; I guess my theory on pants and shrinking doesn't really hold water after all. In the minds eye of a six year old, all your favourite people are 10 feet tall, and perfect. It's just that as you get older, they turn out to be just the right size.

Well, my grandparents are gone now, and my parents are too, but it's nice to look back through the eyes of a six year old, and to appreciate those perfect days gone by. And to think of 'Bubby and Zaidy'. Warmest Regards. - Wish You Were Here.

Societally Yours,
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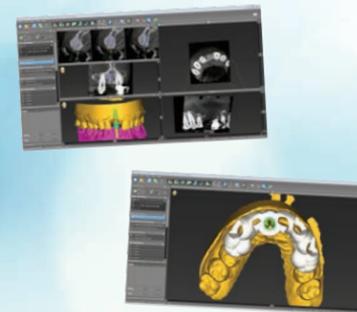
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